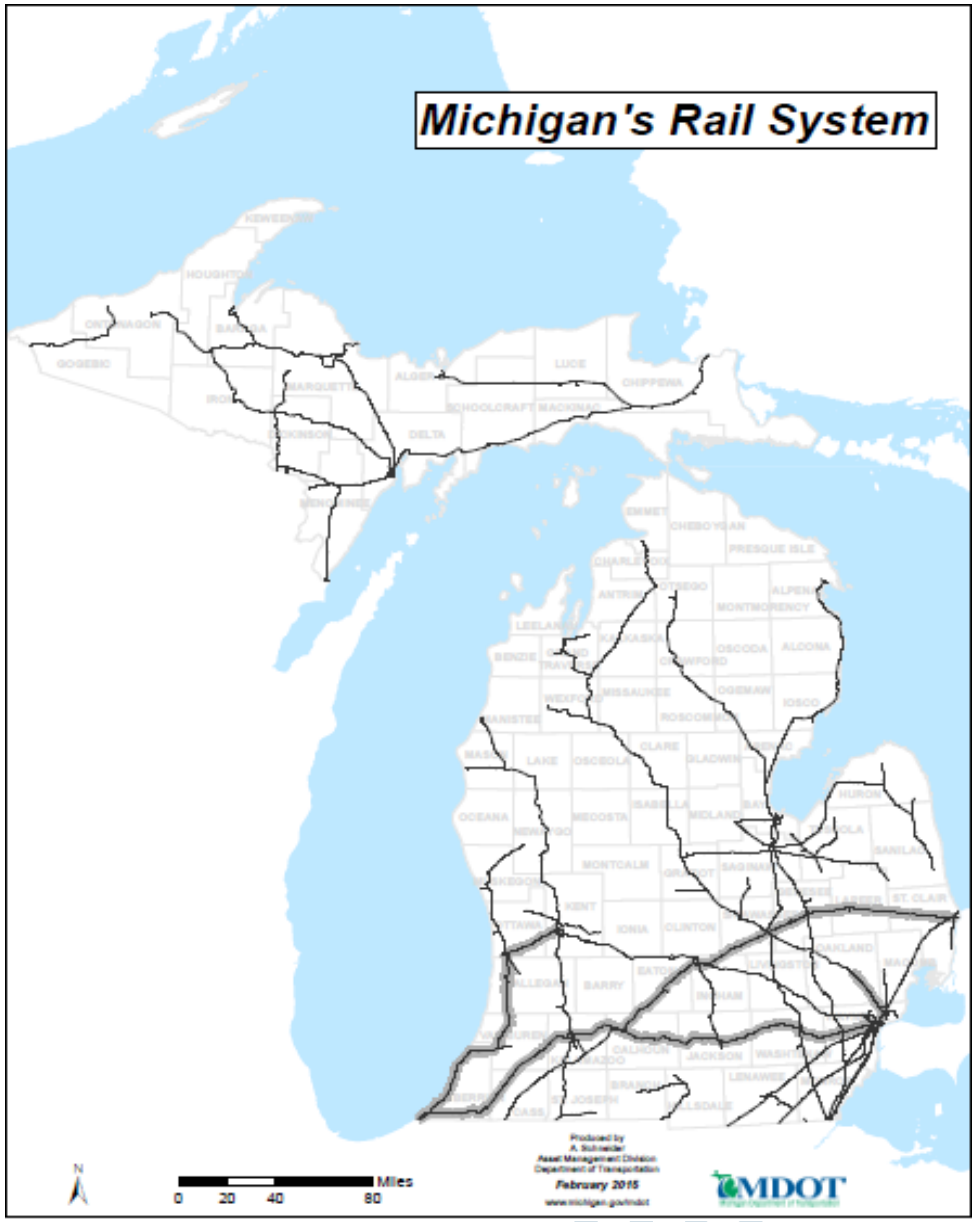
MDOT Office of Rail
Intercity Passenger Rail

Peter Anastor, Director
MDOT Office of Rail

Michigan's Overall Rail System

- 3600 miles of corridor
  - Most corridors privately owned & maintained (81.5%)
  - 665 miles of state-owned corridor
- Operated by 29 railroads
  - 4 of 6 Class I Railroads
  - 24 Shortline Railroads
  - Amtrak
- Freight system hosts 3 intercity passenger-rail routes
- 4,800 public at-grade railroad crossings
- 3 international border crossings

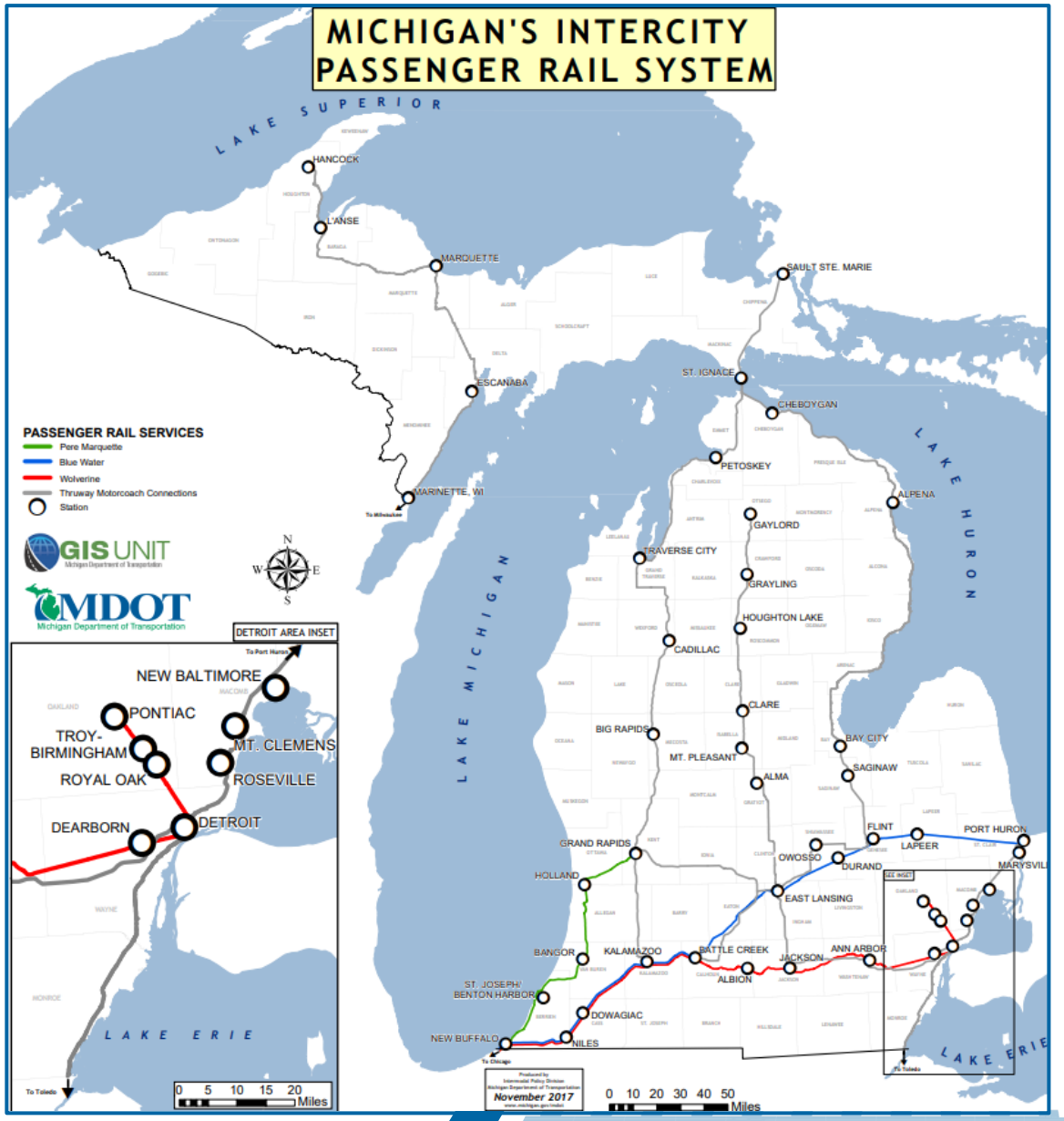


MDOT's Office of Rail

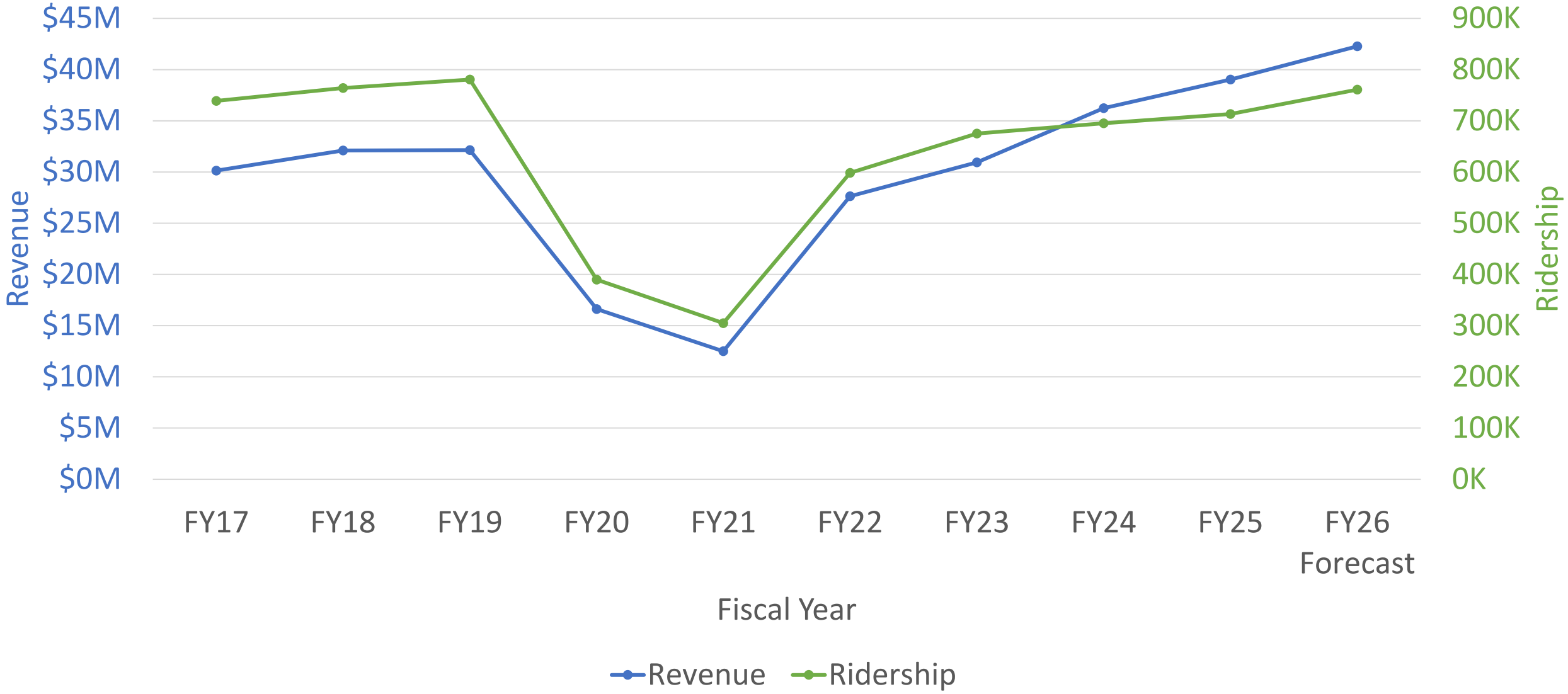
- Safely Move More People & Goods by Rail
- Focus Areas Include:
  - Intercity Passenger Service (Amtrak)
  - Railroad Crossing Safety
  - Railroad Worker Safety
  - Fixed Rail Safety Oversight
  - Management of State-Owned Rail Corridors
  - Freight Rail Economic Development Programs

Michigan’s Passenger Rail Services

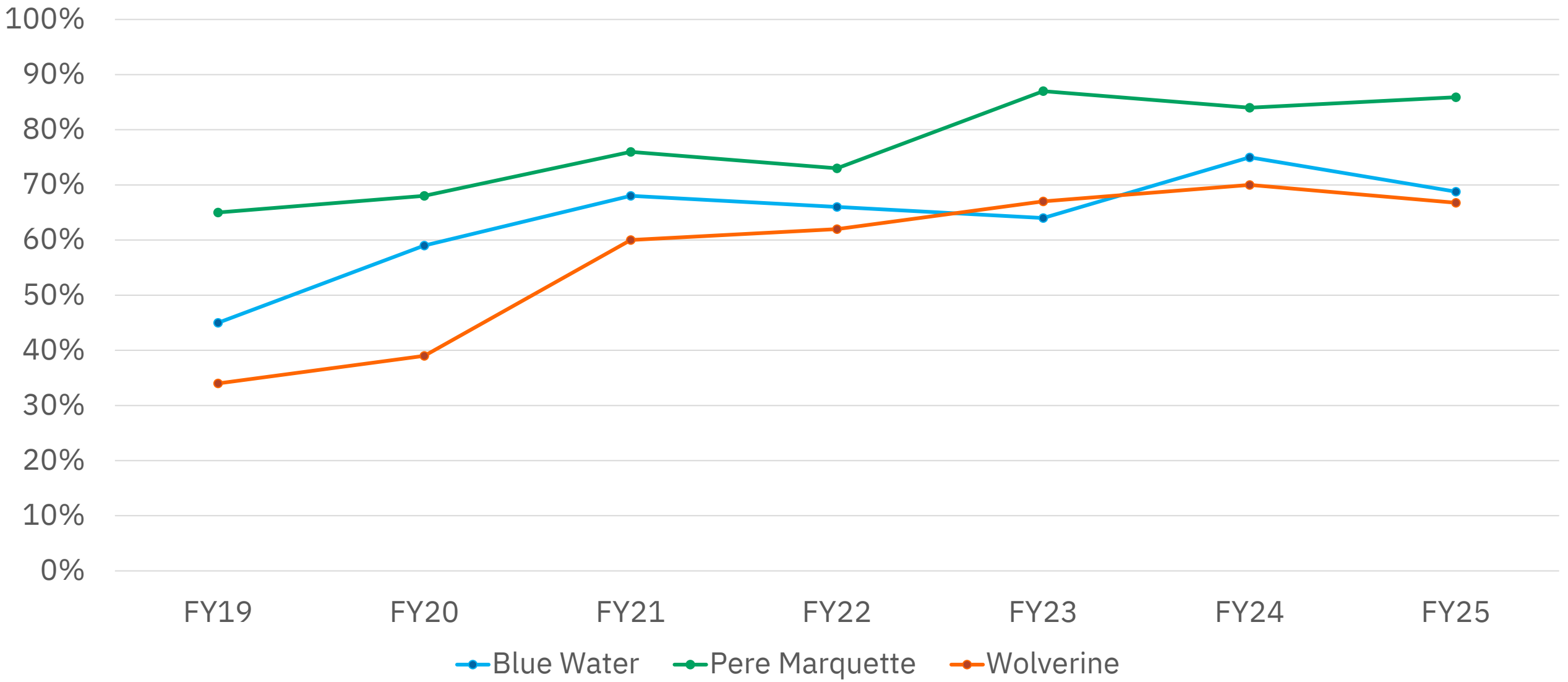
- Routes and (Round-Trip Frequency/day)
  - Wolverine: Pontiac/Detroit - Chicago (3)
  - Blue Water: Port Huron – Chicago (1)
  - Pere Marquette: Grand Rapids – Chicago (1)
- 3,650 Trains per Year
- Connecting 22 station communities
- MDOT and Amtrak ownership of 110-mph rail corridor
- Other corridors owned by CN, CSX, NS & Conrail
- Serving approximately 700,000 passengers/year
- Services Provided by Amtrak



Michigan Services Ridership and Revenue



Customer On-Time Performance FY2019-25



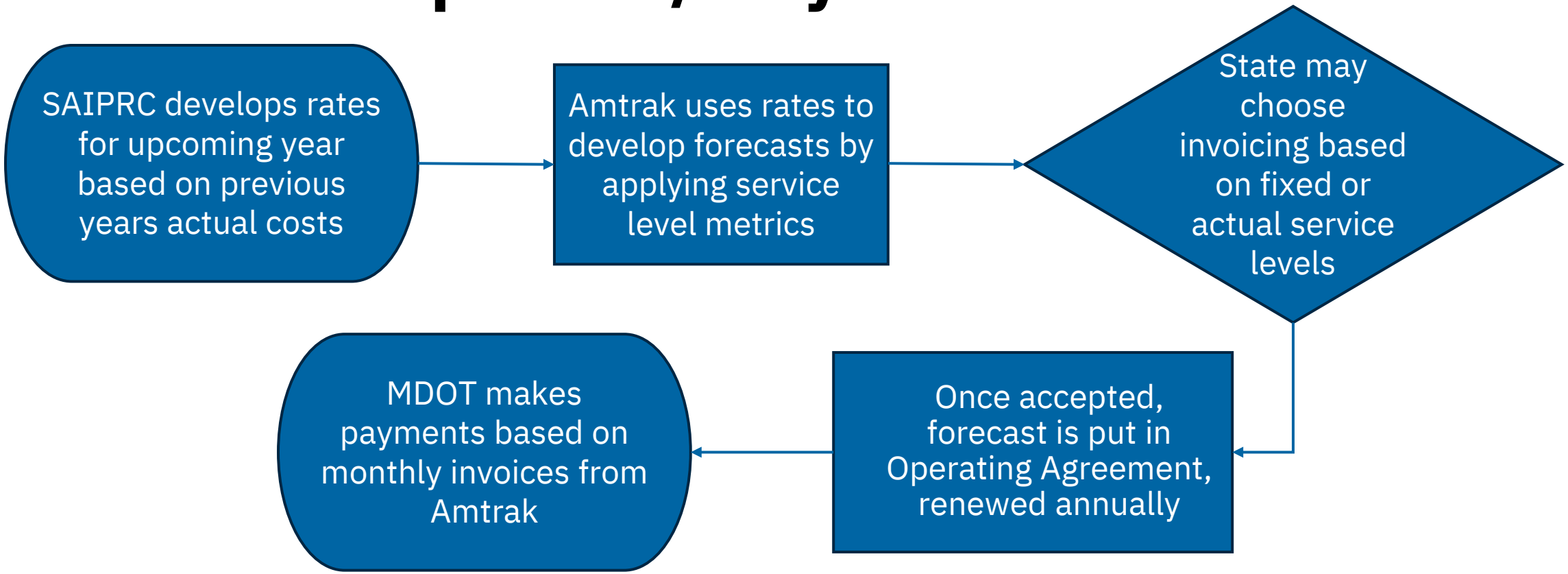
MDOT's Intercity Passenger Rail Investments

- Amtrak's operations for Wolverine, Blue Water & Pere Marquette services
  - Train crews, Equipment, Stations
- Amtrak's maintenance of the MDOT-owned Kalamazoo-Dearborn corridor
  - Track, Tie, Crossing & Signal maintenance & repair, Dispatch
- MDOT-owned Kalamazoo-Dearborn Capital Projects
  - Bridge, Track, Turnout and Crossing replacements or Upgrades
  - Amtrak led or bid-let to third-party contractor

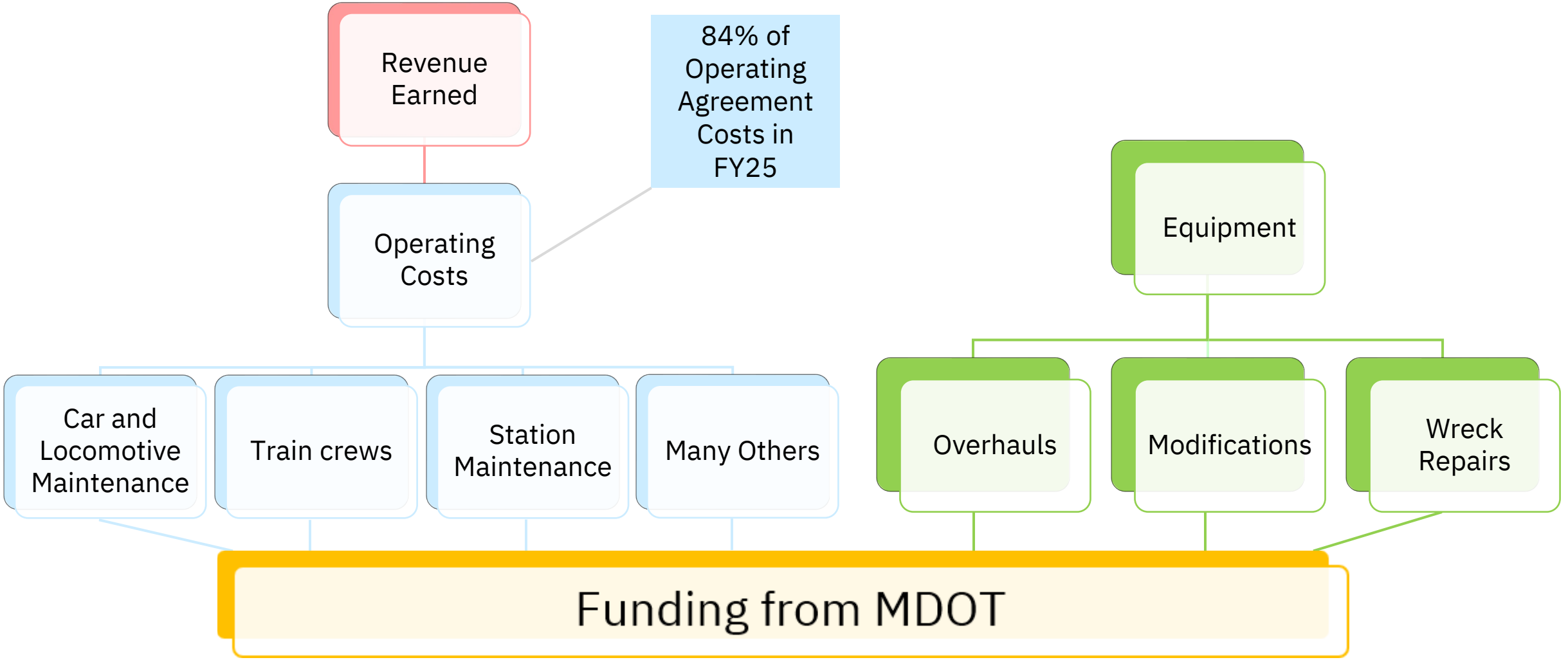
Intercity Passenger Rail Operations Federal Policy

- Federal Policy is Governed by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA)
- Michigan is 1 of 20 states that have routes defined as “state supported”
- Requires Michigan to provide cost of Amtrak operations not covered by ticket revenue
- PRIIA Section 209 required standard nationwide methodology for allocating costs
- Section 209 Policy carried out by States-Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee (SAIPRC) established by Congress

Operating Forecast Development/Payment Process



MDOT/Amtrak Operating Agreement



FY2026	APT_RT_22 : Wolverines
REVENUE	
Ticket Revenue	94%
Food and Beverage Revenue	4%
Other Revenue	2%
Total Revenue	**100%**
OPERATING COSTS	
Train and Engine Crews	23%
On-board Services	6%
Car and Locomotive Maintenance	32%
Stations	11%
Yard Operations	1%
Credit Card Fees	2%
Call Center	2%
National Corporate Expenses	6%
Commercial Performance	2%
On-board Wifi	1%
National Transportation Support	1%
Host Railroad	3%
Fuel and Power	5%
Route Advertising	0.2%
Passenger Inconvenience	2%
Route-Specific Insurance	1%
Total Operating Costs	**100%**
Estimated State Payment	**(Operating Cost-Revenue Earned)**

Sample Operating Cost Categories (from FY26 Wolverine Forecast)

Michigan Services FY25 Farebox Recovery (Revenue/Operating Cost)

Wolverine	76%
Blue Water	56%
Pere Marquette	50%
National Average	69%

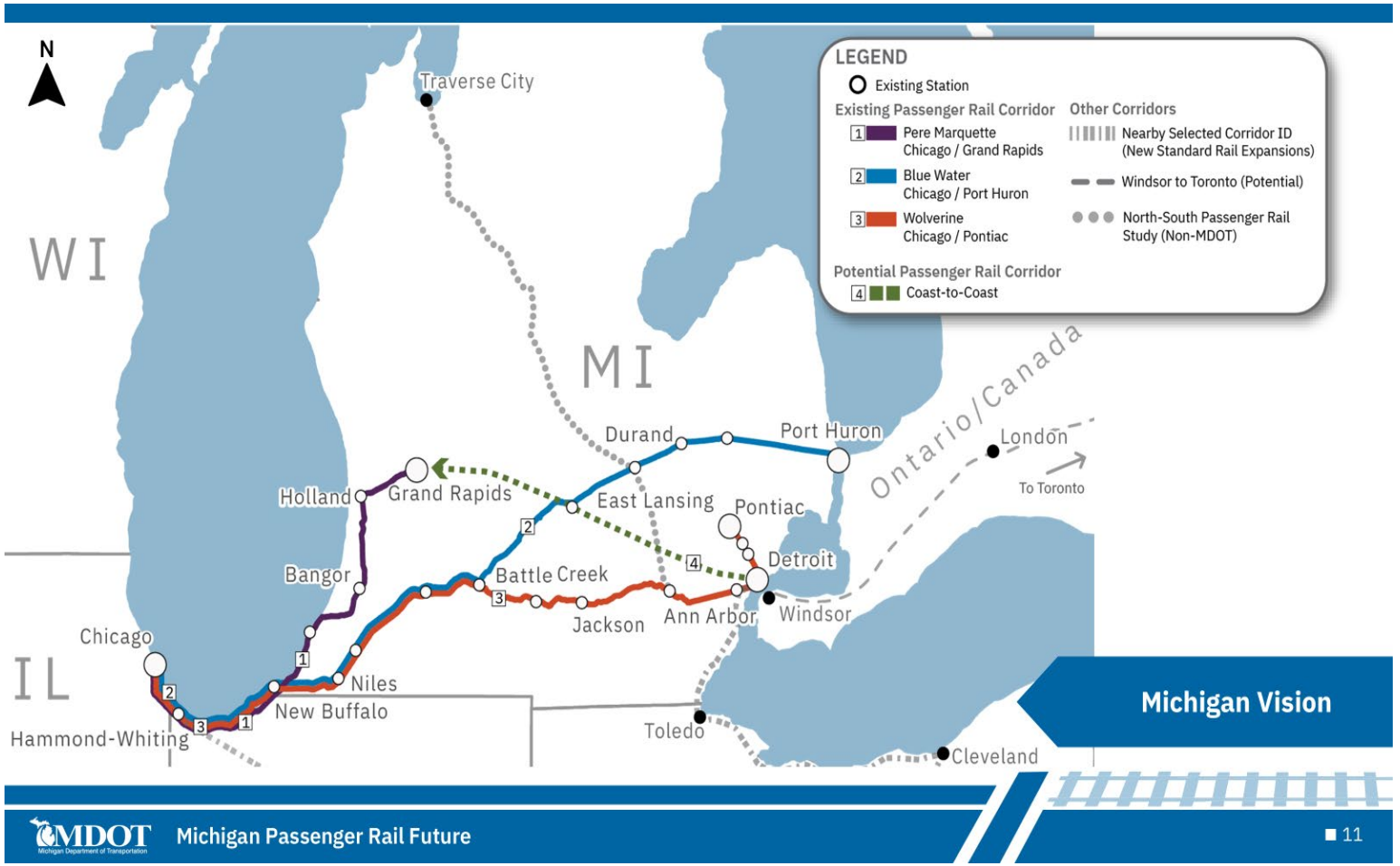
Kalamazoo-Dearborn Maintenance & Capital Investments

- 135-mile segment owned by MDOT
- Passenger rail speeds up to 110 mph
- MDOT contracts with Amtrak to maintain & manage
  - $12.6M FY26 maintenance
  - $14.5M FY26 capital improvements
- MDOT is current managing 5 active federal grant projects to improve safety, replace bridges, increase speeds & maintain state of good repair on this corridor
  - $76.6M total costs
  - $38.75M federal grant funds
  - Amtrak or contractor performs work

MDOT Passenger Rail Future

- FRA Corridor ID Program
  - Reliability Improvements
  - Efficiency Improvements
  - Double Existing Service

- New Route Exploration
  - Grand Rapids/Lansing/Detroit
  - North/South
  - Detroit/Toledo/Cleveland



MICHIGAN PASSENGER RAIL

FUTURE

Website: Search “Michigan Passenger Rail Future,” scan the QR code or visit:

Michigan.gov/MiPassengerRailFuture

Join our mailing list at that same link above.

Reach us by Email:
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