

Coast to Coast Implementation Plan

1 Context

The purpose of this study is to evaluate the three alternative routes proposed for the Coast to Coast study and to produce a preferred alternative and implementation plan. These routes have been studied in a number of previous studies so effective databases exist of the corridor markets, rail routes, and the level of rail operations required. This data only needs updating and allows the analysis to be completed quickly and efficiently.

2 Environmental Considerations*

The analysis will be of operating passenger rail on one of three existing routes that currently have rail operations. Therefore, the proposed passenger service can be implemented by obtaining categorical exclusions (CE) or environmental assessments (EA) as the improvements will be within the railroad rights-of-way. The only areas where there may be an environmental impact will be where new stations are required. It's anticipated that communities will be responsible for the development of such stations, where existing stations cannot be readily reused or redeveloped on existing railroad lands.

3 Proposed Study

The proposed study will be an update of the initial Coast to Coast Business Plan. A key consideration will be service extension to Muskegon. The study will include the following updates –

- MDOT and USDOT Coordination
- Ridership and Revenue
- Operations, Equipment , Schedules and Costs
- Engineering of Routes and Costs
- Financial and Economic Analysis
- Screening of Alternatives based on Financial, Economic and Environmental factors
- Integration with other Michigan Rail Systems including Freight Rail
- Implementation Plan and Phasing
- Identification for the need for Environmental Permits
- Franchise of Rail Operations
- Public and Stakeholder Outreach
- Implementation Plan Report

4 Timeline and Resources

- Study will take 12 months
- Study will cost \$600,000

*If a full Environmental Analysis is needed, which is most unlikely given there are no new greenfields proposed, the analysis would take another six months and cost an additional \$300,000.