



# **Atlanta to Charlotte Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan Tier 1 DEIS**

**October 2019 Briefing**

## **Purpose of Today's Briefing**

- Share instructions for public comment
- Review project website materials
- Discuss next steps for the Tier 1 DEIS

# Public & Agency Involvement

- DEIS appeared in federal register on **September 20, 2019**
- 45-day comment period will end **November 4, 2019**
- Distribution to participating agencies and stakeholder groups
- Public meetings in **October 2019** in three locations:
  - 10/22 - Atlanta, Georgia
  - 10/23 - Greenville, South Carolina
  - 10/24 - Charlotte, North Carolina
- GDOT & FRA will compile and respond to all comments
- Address comments in the FEIS/ROD document

# Comment Period Open

## September 20 – November 4, 2019

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/Rail/AtlantatoCharlotte/EIS>

### Atlanta to Charlotte

Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan

The Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) for the proposed Atlanta to Charlotte Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan (the Project) is now available for public review. The Tier 1 DEIS has been published in the federal register as of September 20, 2019. The 45-day public and agency review and comment period will occur between September 20, 2019 and November 4, 2019. The purpose of the Tier 1 Draft EIS is to establish the Project's Need and Purpose and evaluate the potential environmental impact of three Corridor Alternatives and a No-Build Alternative.

Tier 1 Draft EIS Documents
<a href="#">Atlanta to Charlotte DEIS Signature Page</a>
<a href="#">Cover and Table of Contents</a>
<a href="#">Executive Summary</a>
<a href="#">Introduction</a>
<a href="#">Alternatives Considered</a>
<a href="#">Affected Environment</a>
<a href="#">Coordination</a>
<a href="#">References</a>
<a href="#">Acronyms and Glossary</a>
<a href="#">List of Preparers</a>
<a href="#">Appendix A: Part 1 - Map Books - Title Page and Table of Contents</a>
<a href="#">Appendix A: Part 2 - Map Books - Southern Crescent CSX Approach</a>
<a href="#">Appendix A: Part 3 - Map Books - Southern Crescent Corridor Alternative NS Approach</a>

### Upcoming Meetings

Three Public Open House meetings will be held along the project corridor during the comment period.

[View Meeting Materials](#)

[View Comment Form](#)

OCT  
22

**Atlanta to Charlotte Passenger Rail: Atlanta, Georgia**  
5:30PM - 8PM  
Georgia Department of Transportation, 600 W Peachtree St NW, Atlanta, GA 30308

[View Info](#)

OCT  
23

**Atlanta to Charlotte Passenger Rail: Greenville, South Carolina**  
5:30PM - 8PM  
Greenville County Square, 301 University Ridge, Suite 400 Greenville, SC 29601

[View Info](#)

OCT  
24

**Atlanta to Charlotte Passenger Rail: Charlotte, North Carolina**  
5:30PM - 8PM  
Metrolina Transportation Management Center, 2327 Tipton Drive Charlotte, NC 28206

[View Info](#)

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## Tier 1 EIS Scope

Tier 1 EIS:

- Establishes Need & Purpose
- Identifies Corridor Alternatives
- Evaluates high-level potential environmental impacts

In the Tier 1 study, a **Corridor Alternative** is defined as a generalized area of travel, up to 600 feet wide.

Future Tier 2 studies would identify a specific alignment and:

- Technology
- Atlanta Approach
- Station locations, including airport interfaces
- O&M facilities
- Service Development Plan



# Purpose and Need

## Project's Purpose

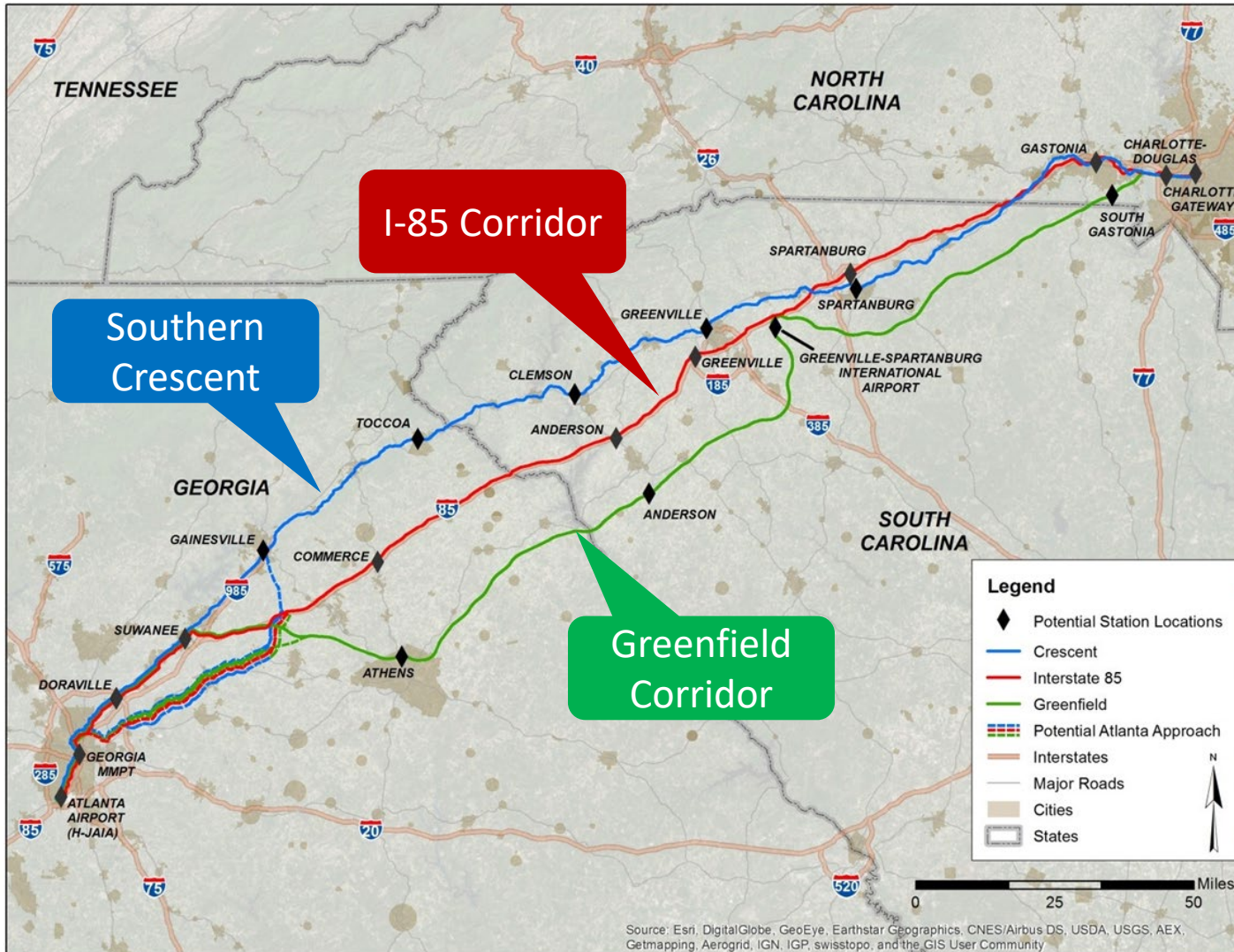
- The Purpose of the Project is to improve intercity passenger travel between Atlanta and Charlotte by expanding the region's transportation system capacity, and improving trip time and reliability through high-speed passenger rail services.



## Project's Need

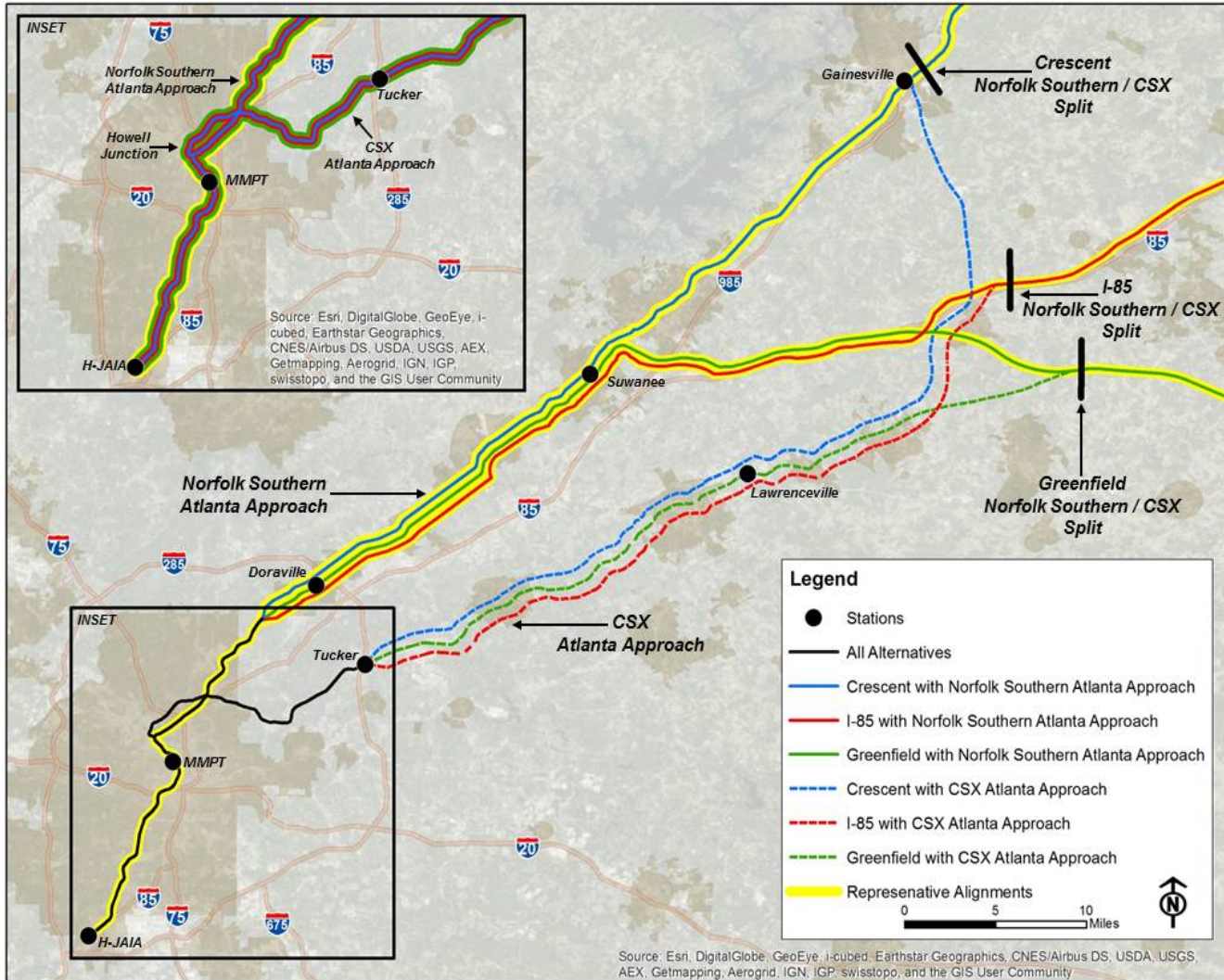
- Population and Employment Growth
- Improve Regional Transportation System Connectivity
- Increase Transportation System Capacity
- Improve Travel Times and Reliability
- Provide an Alternative Travel Mode
- Traveler Safety
- Improve Energy Efficiency and Air Quality
- Maintain and Enhance Economic Growth and Vitality

# Tier 1 Corridor Alternatives




































# Atlanta Approach Options (NS & CSX)

## Decision deferred to Tier 2 EIS





# Environmental Impact Comparison

Categories	Definitions	Southern Crescent	I-85	Greenfield
<b>Diverted Trips</b>	Projected Automobile, Air, and Bus Trips Diverted To Rail			
<b>Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice</b>	Percentage of Census Block Groups Meeting EJ Criteria For Minority and Low-Income Populations			
<b>Noise</b>	Number of Potential Noise Receptor Impacts			
<b>Vibration</b>	Number of Potential Vibration Receptor Impacts			
<b>Parklands and Wildlife Refuges</b>	Acres of Parklands and Wildlife Refuge Sites			
<b>Cultural and Historic Resources</b>	Number of Known Cultural Resources			
<b>Threatened and Endangered Species Habitats</b>	Number of Known Threatened and Endangered Species Habitats			
<b>Wetlands</b>	Acres of Wetlands			
<b>Waterbody Crossings</b>	Number of Waterbody Crossings (Rivers, Streams, Lakes)			
<b>Floodplains</b>	Acres of Floodplains			
<b>Community Facilities</b>	Number of Known Community Facilities			

 **Lowest Potential Impact**

 **Moderate Potential Impact**

 **Highest Potential Impact**

# Next Steps

# FEIS/ROD

## Select and Document Preferred Alternative

- FRA and GDOT will select a Preferred Alternative following the public and agency comment period
- Decision based on:
  - Feedback and comments from public and agencies
  - Performance of each Corridor Alternative
  - Environmental impacts of each Corridor Alternative on social, economic, and environmental resources
- Consider other rail & transit planning efforts

## Components Deferred for a Tier 2 Analysis

- Project Alignment
- Station Locations
- Airport Interfaces
- Technology
- Atlanta Approach & Downtown Station
- O&M facilities
- Service Development Plan



Georgia Department of Transportation

**GDOT Intermodal Division**

**600 West Peachtree St NW**

**Atlanta, Georgia 30308**

**Email: [AtlantaCharlotteHSR@dot.ga.gov](mailto:AtlantaCharlotteHSR@dot.ga.gov)**

**Web: <http://www.dot.ga.gov/IS/Rail/AtlantatoCharlotte>**