



On Track for the Future:

Madison Passenger Rail Station Study

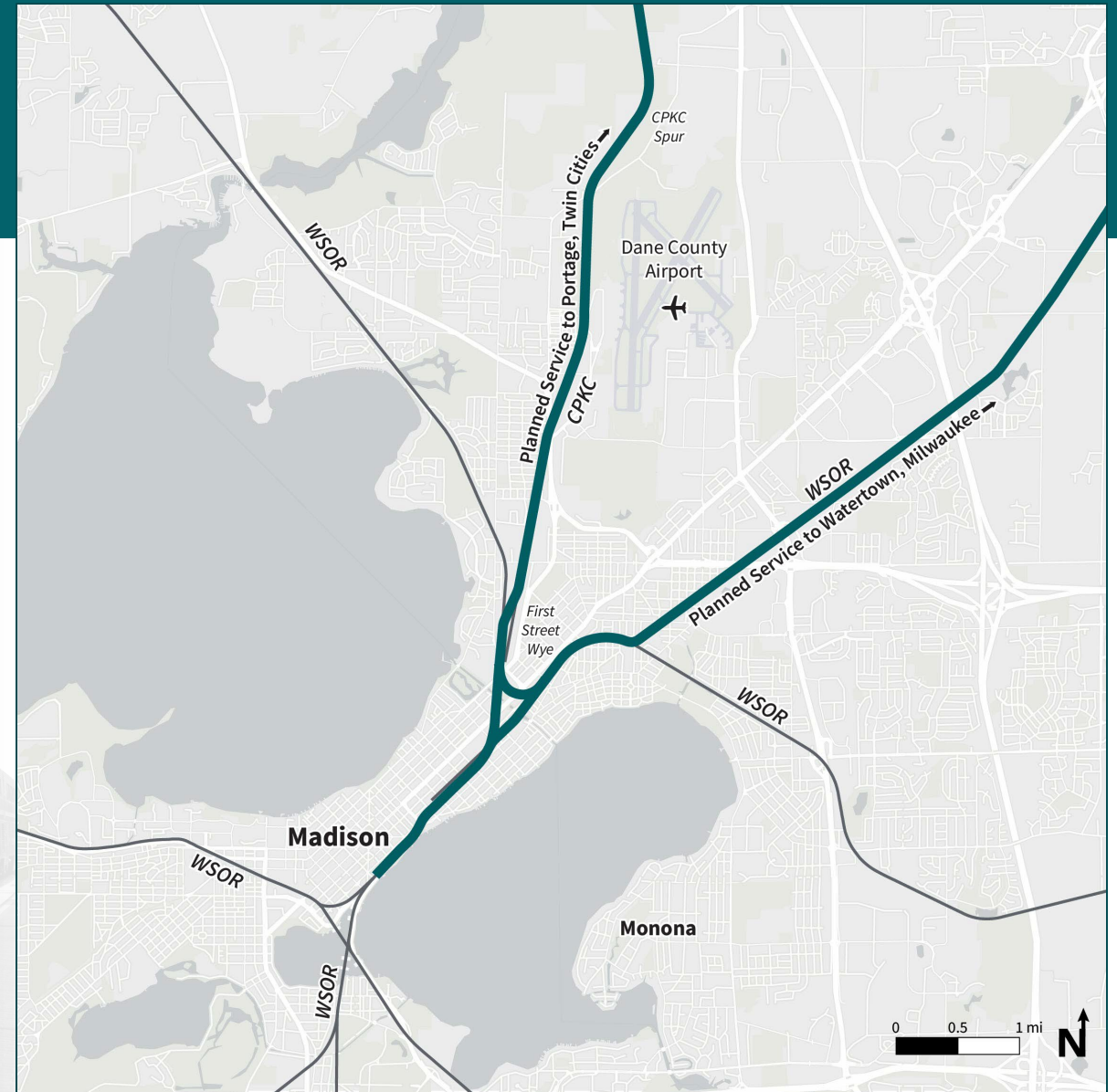
November 19, 2025 – Transportation Commission

Passenger Rail & Madison

- Madison is among the largest metro areas in the Midwest not served by passenger rail.
- A passenger rail connection in Madison has been recommended in federal and state plans over the years.
- WisDOT is studying an extension of the Hiawatha that includes Madison as part of its Federally funded Corridor ID study.



Existing Rail Connections



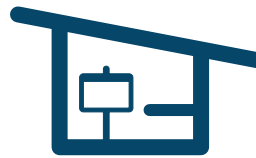
Goals for a Madison Station

- Meet train access and operational needs
- Accommodate essential station elements
- Ensure feasibility of site ownership and control
- Minimize environmental impacts
- Maximize ridership potential
- Promote equitable access to the station
- Capitalize on economic development opportunities
- Create or build upon an active, welcoming, and functional place

Service and Station Needs



3-4 Daily Round Trips



3-5K sq ft building/space for restrooms, waiting area, and information



700 ft long Siemens Venture passenger cars pushed or pulled by Siemens locomotives



Train servicing facilities—onsite or nearby

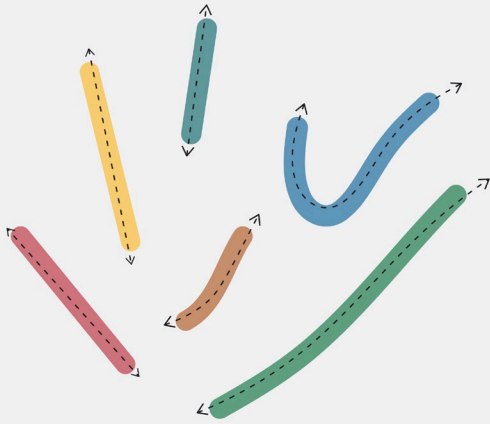


700-ft Long Platform
Desired



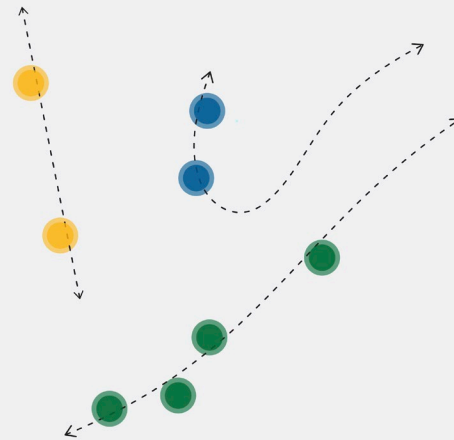
Multimodal connectivity, pick-up/drop-off, access to 100-200 parking spaces

Study Evaluation Process



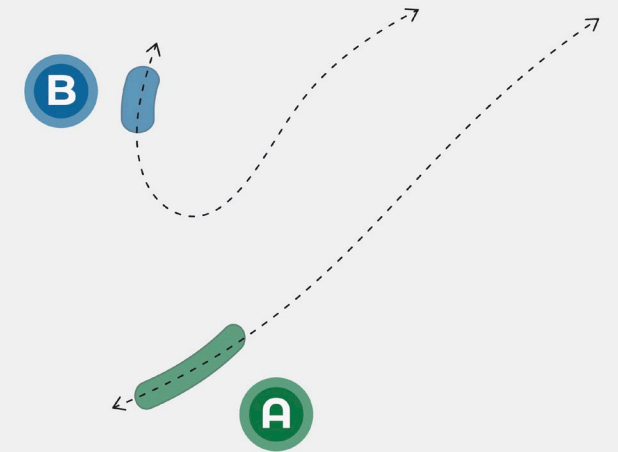
SIX CORRIDORS

Identified six station area corridors along existing tracks where a station could be located.



EIGHT SITES

Evaluated eight most viable station sites within the recommended corridors.



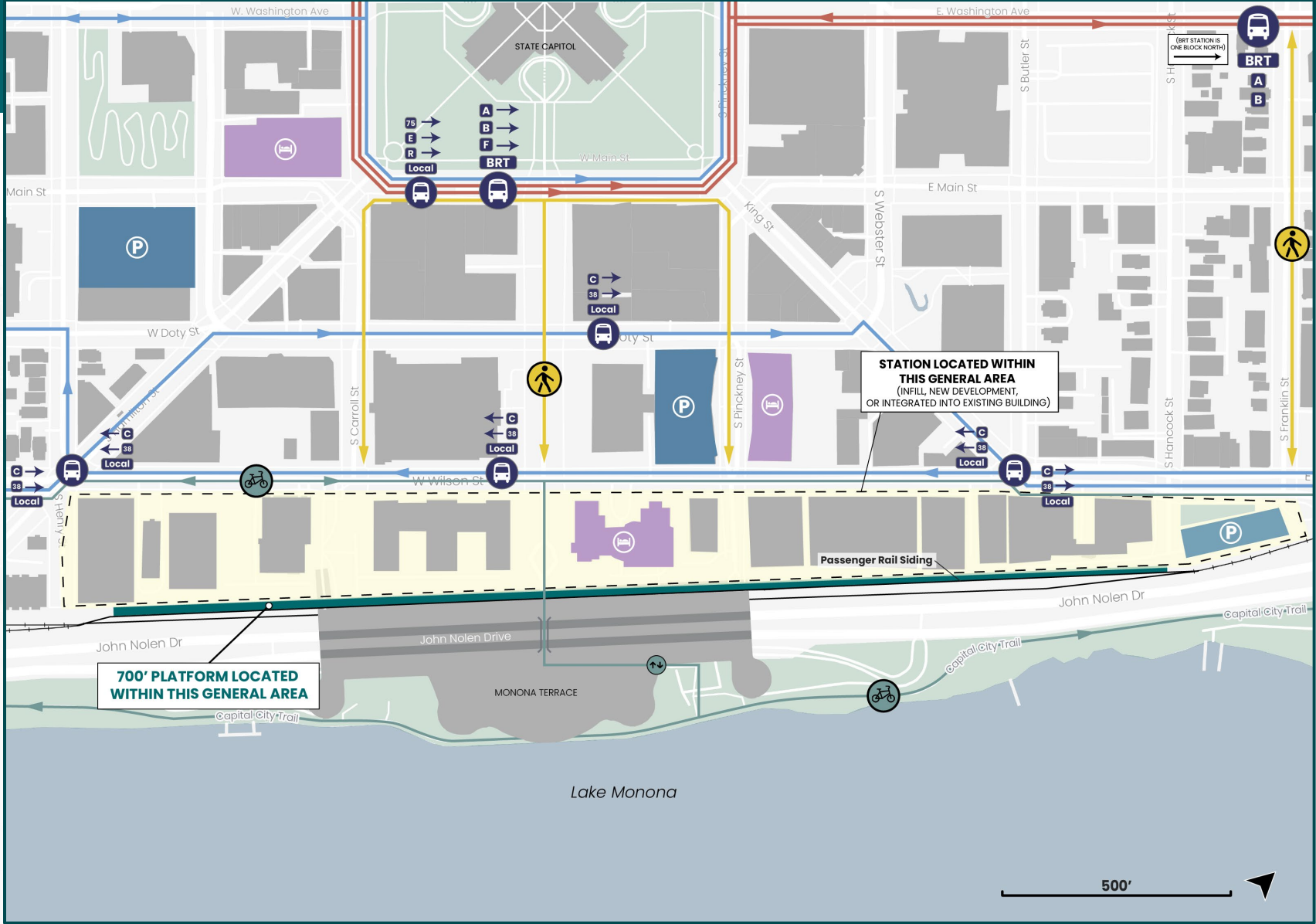
TWO SITE AREAS

Recommended two site areas with the highest likelihood of success.



PLAN A:
Monona Lakefront

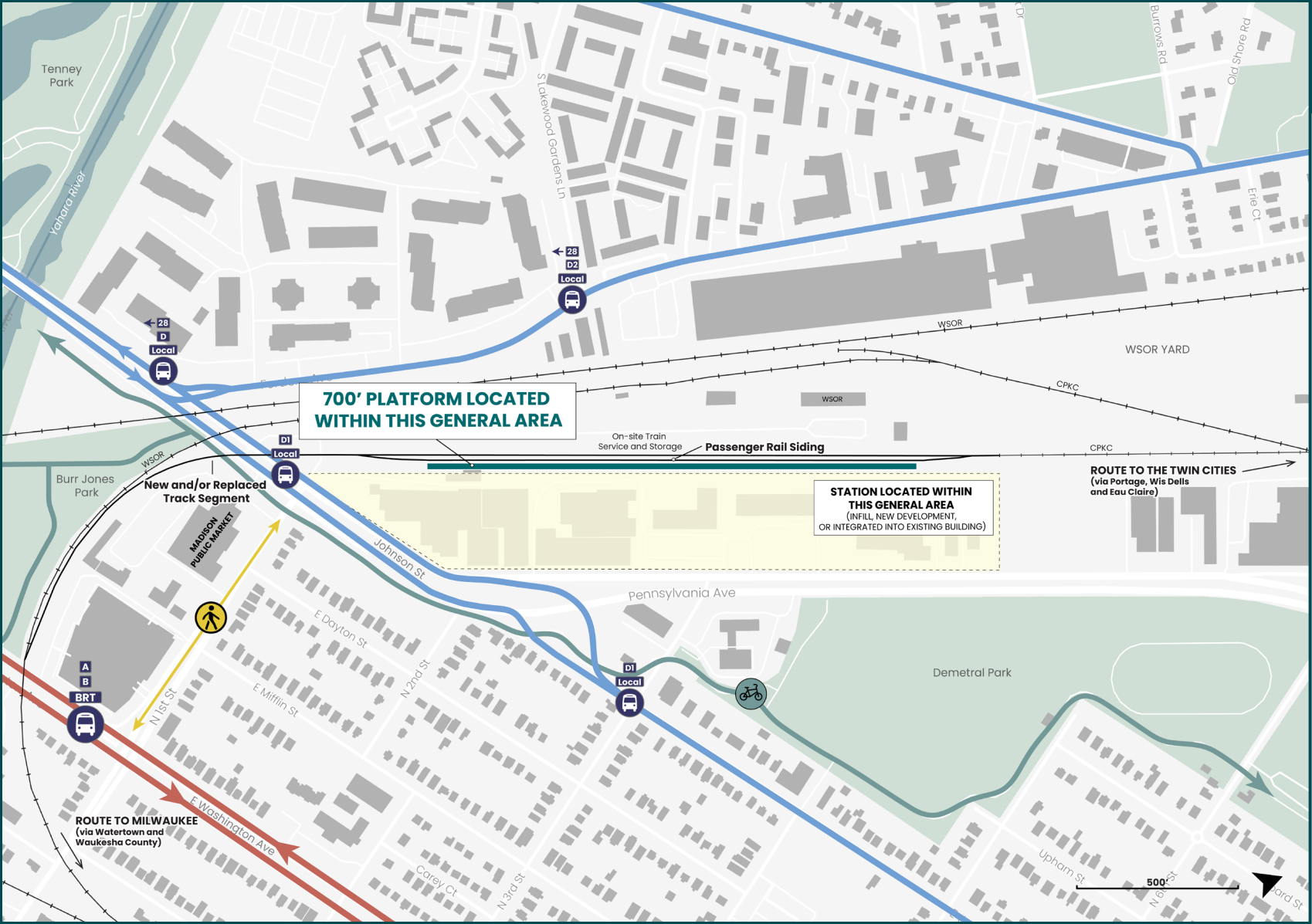
PLAN A:
Monona Lakefront



PLAN B: Johnson Street Yard



PLAN B:
Johnson Street Yard



Dismissed Site Areas



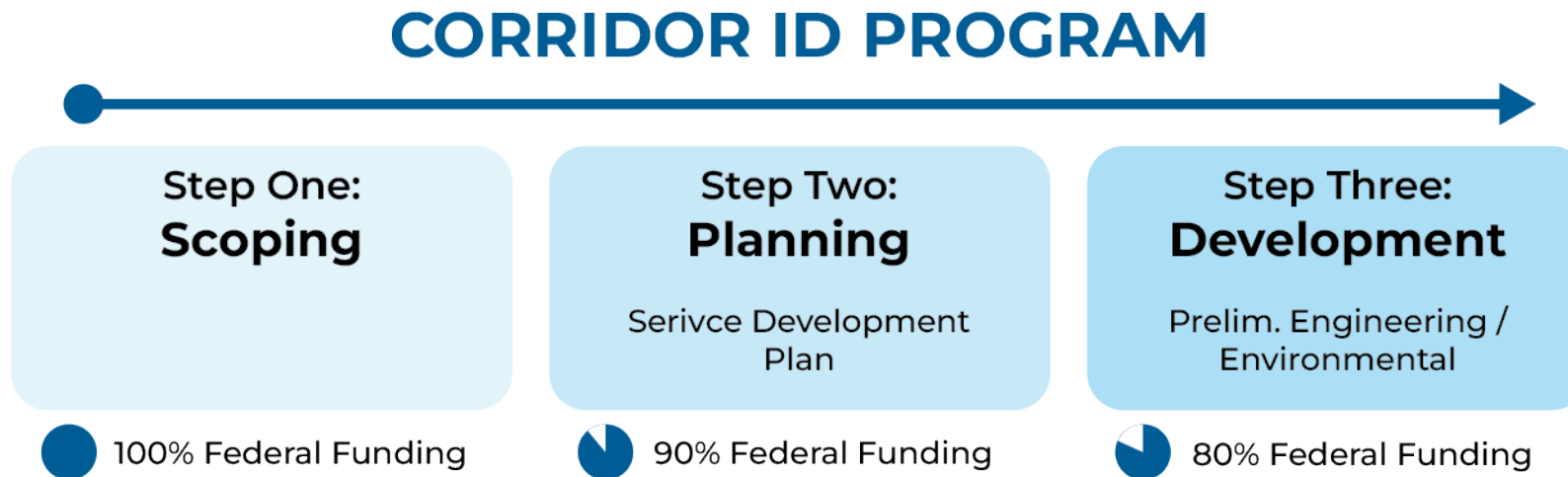
Reserve Sites for Future Consideration





NEXT STEPS AND FUNDING

Corridor ID Program Progression

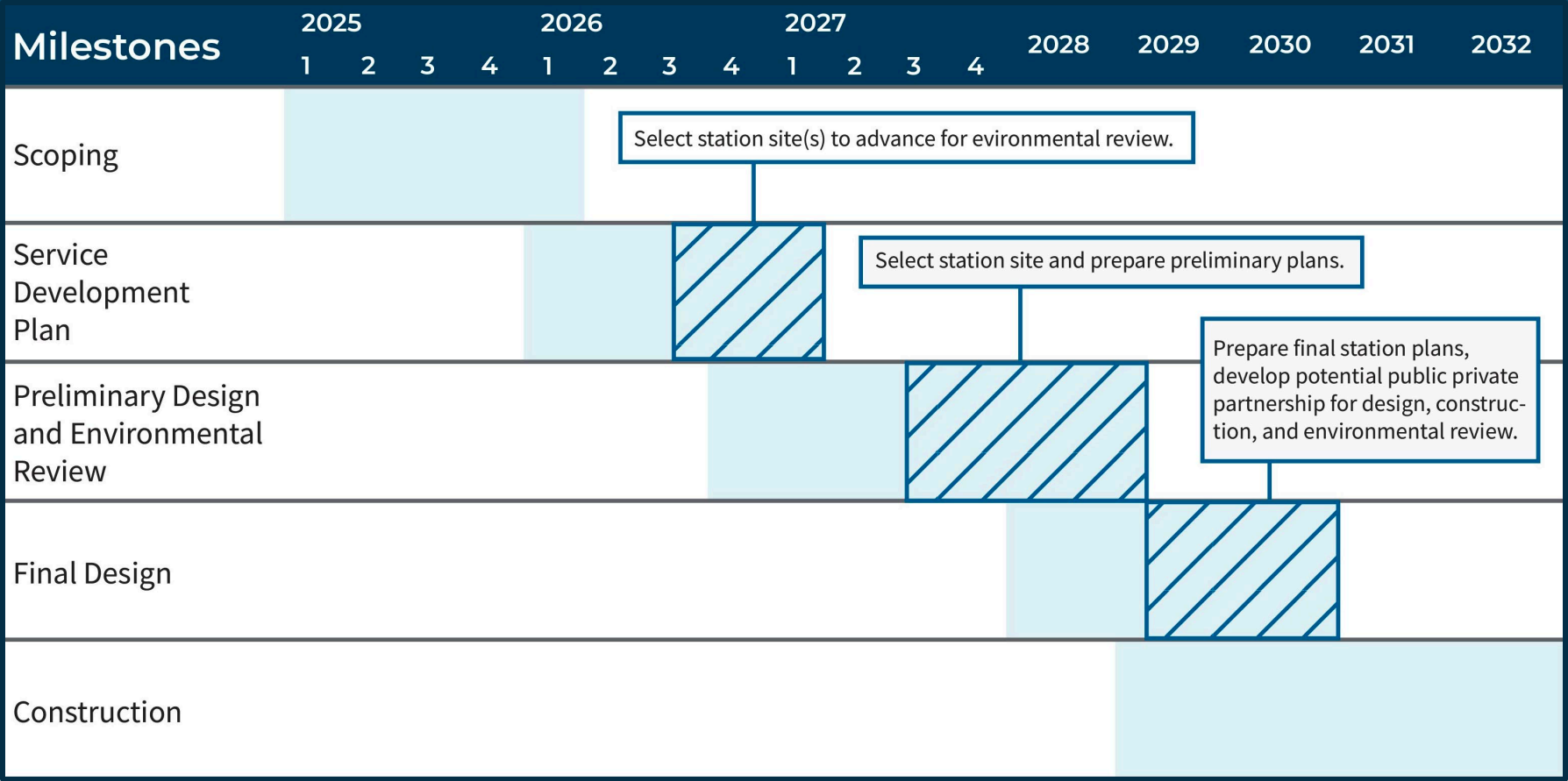


Implementation Milestones and Action Steps

Milestone	Agency Coordination	Key Actions
Station Feasibility Study (Complete)	City of Madison	- Evaluated potential station sites and identified those with the highest likelihood of success. - Began discussions with WisDOT, Amtrak, railroads, and property owners.
Scoping (In Progress)	WisDOT (Lead)	- Complete Step 1 of CID process - Develop scope, schedule, and budget for CID Step 2 (Service Development Plan). - Secure 10% local match. - Process grant agreement with FRA for CID Step 2.
	City of Madison	Coordinate with WisDOT on Step 1, including station planning steps for inclusion in the Statement of Work.
Service Development Plan (SDP)	WisDOT (Lead)	- Completes CID Step 2: Evaluates route, ridership, station sites, operations, infrastructure needs, governance structure, funding plan and corridor implementation schedule and phasing. - Secure 20% local match for CID Step 3.
	City of Madison	In coordination with WisDOT and Amtrak, updates station plans based on SDP findings and identifies station site alternative(s) for environmental review under CID Step 3.
Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Review	WisDOT (Lead)	- Conducts preliminary engineering and environmental review as part of CID Step 3. - Prepares federal grant applications for construction funding.
	City of Madison	- In coordination with WisDOT and Amtrak, prepares preliminary station plans, supports environmental review of station site alternative(s) and selects station site for implementation. - Initiates process for public private partnership for station implementation and any required local development agreements. - Develops plans for station area planning, zoning and supportive infrastructure.
Final Design	WisDOT (Lead)	Advances final design for corridor infrastructure and prepares construction plans.
	City of Madison/Private Development Partner	- In coordination with WisDOT and Amtrak, prepares final station plans and if required secures land for station facilities. - Public private partnership and development agreements are finalized for station design, construction and operations. - Implements station area plans and supportive infrastructure plans (e.g., bike/pedestrian facilities and transit connectivity).
Construction	WisDOT (Lead)	Constructs corridor infrastructure.
	City of Madison/Private Development Partner	Oversees construction of station building and local transportation access

Conceptual Schedule

Subject to change





THANK YOU

Liz Callin
Principal Transportation Planner



MADISON DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION

CITY OF MADISON