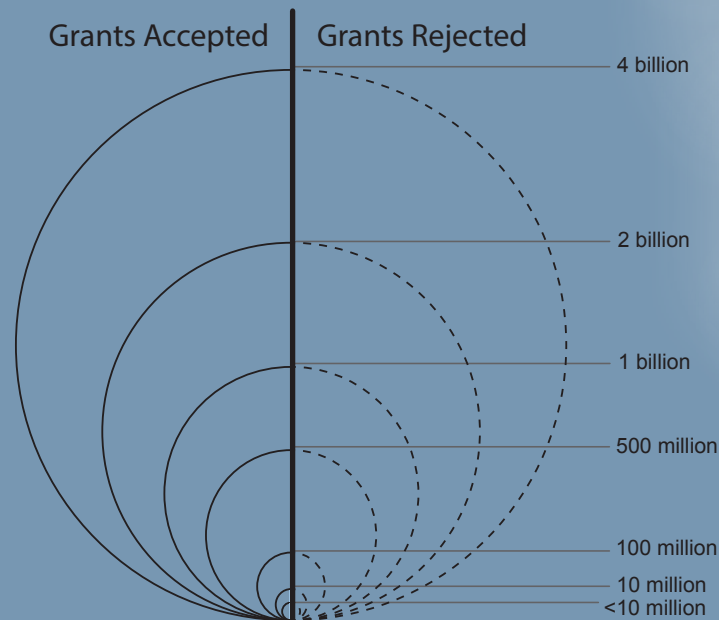


High-speed rail in the United States is here. Definitions of what constitutes high speed rail vary, but generally it refers to speeds of 110+ mph on dedicated lines. The latest push for high-speed rail is a product of policies and development dating back to the start of the 20th century. With the passage of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in 2009, the federal government paved the way for high-speed rail.

This cartographic visualization illustrates how federal funding was distributed and where high-speed rail is being implemented. Many projects are underway despite political contention from a variety of stakeholders. Constructing high-speed rail lines is a dynamic process, requiring the cooperation of federal, state, and local governments, citizens, corporations, and other organizations. Going forward, high-speed rail is set to be an integral part of America's diversified 21st century transportation network.

- Major Station
- Planned High-speed Rail
- Cancelled High-speed Rail
- Existing Passenger Rail

Federal High-Speed Rail Funding by State (\$)



All Aboard?

High-Speed Passenger Rail in the US

Pacific Northwest
 Federal funding directed towards new tracks to ease congestion, track and station upgrades, safety improvements, and new locomotives. The top speed will not exceed 79 mph due to safety and freight service concerns cited by Union Pacific Railroad.

Top Speed:
79 mph

Completion:
2017

Northeast
 Amtrak's Acela Express, the only operational high-speed rail in the US, cruises between Boston and Washington, D.C., reaching speeds of 150 mph. Upgrades for higher speeds from Washington, D.C. to Charlotte are underway.

Top Speed:
220 mph

Completion:
2040

Midwest
 Upgrades to the Chicago-Kansas City and Chicago-Detroit lines for high speeds are moving forward. The Chicago-Minneapolis and Ohio branches have stalled. The governors of Wisconsin and Ohio rejected federal grants over concerns of state operating costs.

Top Speed:
110 mph

Completion:
2035

California
 California will be home to the fastest rail in the country. Phase 1 will link San Francisco and Los Angeles, to be completed in 2029. Phase 2 will extend the line north to Sacramento and south to San Diego. No time line has been made for Phase 2.

Top Speed:
242 mph

Completion:
2029

Florida
 Florida's governor rejected federal grants for high-speed rail development in 2011. Seeing an opportunity, private investors are now building high-speed rail service between Orlando and Miami.

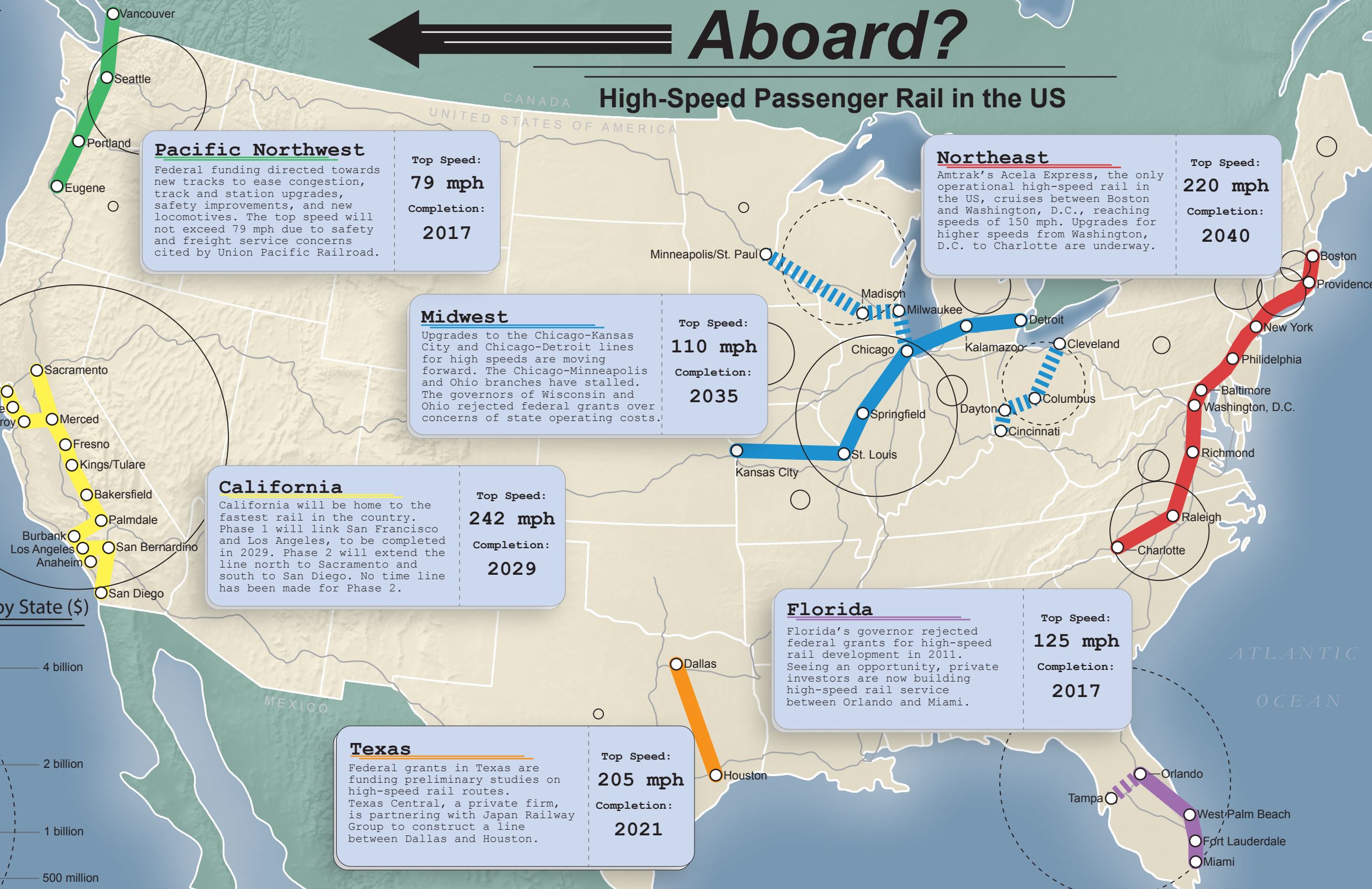
Top Speed:
125 mph

Completion:
2017

Texas
 Federal grants in Texas are funding preliminary studies on high-speed rail routes. Texas Central, a private firm, is partnering with Japan Railway Group to construct a line between Dallas and Houston.

Top Speed:
205 mph

Completion:
2021



Cartographer: Michael Smith
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