

## Rail Study Launched, Public Meetings Scheduled

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) and the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) have begun a study that will examine the implementation and operation of more frequent and higher speed intercity passenger on a route that runs through four New England states and Quebec, Canada.

The Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative will study two rail corridors, linked in Springfield, MA, the Boston-Springfield-Montreal and Boston-Springfield-New Haven corridors. The route runs Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Quebec Province. (See map of study area)

The study will build upon existing plans and projects to upgrade rail in these projects, focusing on incremental improvements to rail facilities.



Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative is being overseen by a partnership of MassDOT and VAOT with support from Federal Railroad Administration and in collaboration with Connecticut Department of Transportation Ministère des Transports du Québec.

Two public meetings on the Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative (NNEIRI) will be held on January 22 and 23, 2014.

## Public Meetings in January

Two public meetings will be held in January on the Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative study. We hope that you can come. If you are unable to attend in person, please check out the project website to hear the meeting presentation:

<http://www.mass.gov/massdot/northernnewenglandrail>.

Please come and learn about rail in New England!

Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 7:00 PM

Hotel Coolidge

39 S Main Street

White River Junction, VT

Thursday, January 23, 2014 at 7:00 PM

Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

60 Congress Street

Springfield, MA

Meeting locations are accessible to people with disabilities. Persons who would like to request any language (non-English) interpretation assistance, American Sign Language interpreters, assistive listening devices, handouts in alternative formats, or information on the meeting should contact: Jill Barrett by email [jbarrett@fhiplan.com](mailto:jbarrett@fhiplan.com) or by phone (860) 570-0740 by January 13, 2014.

## What's up with rail?

This is an exciting time for passenger rail in New England! Several routes are currently being studied. And rail infrastructure improvements that will result in increased and better service are underway. The following activities, some overlapping but coordinated with the Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative, are currently occurring:

### New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Program

[www.nhhsrail.com](http://www.nhhsrail.com)

The Connecticut Department of Transportation has initiated a program to improve track, stations and service in the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail corridor. A significant amount of the corridor will be upgraded between the New Haven and Hartford Stations by 2016, resulting in regular commuter trains serving these cities and stations in between.



*Continuously welded rail is being installed in Vermont as part of a nearly \$80 million investment to upgrade rail in the Vermont.*

### Northeast Corridor Study

[www.NECfuture.com](http://www.NECfuture.com)

In February 2012, the Federal Railroad Administration began a comprehensive planning effort to define, evaluate and prioritize future investments in the Northeast Corridor, a route between Boston and Washington, and the most heavily traveled rail corridor in the U.S.

### Vermont's infrastructure upgrades

With almost \$73 million in federal stimulus funds and \$5 million in private investment from New England Central Railroad, the State of Vermont improved track, roadbed, grade crossings, and bridges along a 190 mile-route in Vermont. The project has resulted in travel time savings, increased speeds, greater reliability, improved safety and freight capacity and the potential for more frequent trains in the future.

### Knowledge Corridor-Restore Vermonter

[www.massdot.state.ma.us/knowledgecorridor/](http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/knowledgecorridor/)

Federal stimulus funds through the Federal Rail Administration will result in the reconstruction of 50 miles of track, and build two new station platforms at Northampton and Greenfield, MA, bringing Amtrak's Vermonter service back to the Connecticut River line by the end of 2014.

### Project Managers

For all questions and comments related to the **Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative**, please contact:

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