Compass Rail: Passenger Rail for the Commonwealth

October 18, 2023
Table of Contents

3    Inland Route Award
4    East-West Rail
8    Compass Rail
9    Happening Now
Inland Route Award
Connecting the Commonwealth: Early Actions for the Inland Route

Governor Healey speaks at 9/22/23 press event announcing $108 million federal grant for Inland Route

- $108M federal + $27M match = $135M project
- Planning, design, and construction
- Track realignments and sidings between WOR–SPG
- Added capacity for freight and passenger trains
- Two round trips between BOS–NHV via SPG; Amtrak–operated
- Reduced travel time (i.e. higher speeds) BOS–SPG
- Working with CSX and Amtrak to refine scope

- Summer 2024: begin design
- Spring 2027: begin construction
• East-West Rail capital and service objectives will be achieved through a program of projects.
Existing Services

- North–South services along the Knowledge Corridor: Vermonter, Valley Flyer, and Amtrak Hartford Line and Northeast Regional
- Seasonal Berkshire Flyer service from New York to Pittsfield
Proposed Services

- Proposed “Inland Route” from Boston to New Haven, CT via Springfield
- Proposed “Boston & Albany” service
East-West Rail Vision
Achieved through Compass Rail

- Overlapping services build to East-West Rail vision.
Compass Rail
Passenger Rail for the Commonwealth

- East-West and North-South services comprise Compass Rail.
- Intercity rail not commuter rail; includes robust Springfield hub
- Administered by MassDOT Rail and Transit Division with partners Amtrak, CSX, CT/NY/VT, and others
- Increases transportation options, supports economic development, improves the freight network, and shifts car trips to greener modes
- Will pursue federal funding from historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
Happening Now
Ongoing and upcoming projects in support of Compass Rail

- State-funded design/construction for track improvements near Pittsfield
- Federally-funded preliminary engineering/environmental for track improvements at Springfield Union Station
- State-funded planning/design for Palmer Station
- Federally-funded Inland Route early actions
- Pending federal grants to develop service plans for Inland Route and Boston & Albany corridors
Thank You