



EAST-WEST PASSENGER RAIL STUDY

MassDOT Board Meeting
June 22, 2020

Update Topics

- New ridership estimates since February Advisory Committee meeting
- June 10 Advisory Committee Discussion and Selection of 3 Final Alternatives
- Next Steps

Two New Ridership Forecast Scenarios Were Tested on Alternative 3 and are Proposed for Use on the Final 3 Alternatives

	Scenario 1	Scenario 2
	'Enhanced' Hartford Line Proxy	Downeaster Proxy
Station Catchment Area	20-mile	20-mile
Induced Demand	Yes	No
Springfield Station Buffer Adjustment	Yes	Yes

How Will We Use What We Learned?

How Did the Ridership Forecasts Change?

	Daily Ridership	Annual Ridership
Original Forecast – Preliminary Hartford Line Proxy	238	72,250
Scenario 1 – ‘Enhanced’ Hartford Line Proxy	922	278,300
Scenario 2 – Downeaster Proxy	1,181	358,500

- New scenarios increased ridership estimates by a factor of 3.85 to 4.96
- Forecasts represent likely ridership assumptions given available data and tools
- What does this mean for the next phase of the study?
 - MassDOT will use these two new scenarios to create a range of ridership estimates for each of the final 3 alternatives studied

What Do These Ridership Estimates Mean for Construction Cost per Rider?

- Construction Cost per Rider is projected to be high compared to South Coast Rail (SCR)
 - SCR is the costliest state-funded transit project to date
 - Example: Construction Cost per Rider for Alternative 3

	East-West Alternative 3		
	New 'Enhanced' Hartford Line Proxy	New Downeaster Proxy	South Coast Rail (Phase 1)
Construction Cost per Rider	\$5,678	\$4,407	\$684

Note: Preliminary construction costs were used in the calculations for the East-West alternatives. Cost estimates will be finalized for the final 3 alternatives.

Summary of Process for Narrowing the 6 Preliminary Alternatives Down to 3 Final Alternatives

June 10 Advisory Committee meeting

- Little to no support for Alternatives 1, 2, and 5
 - These contain bus service between Pittsfield and Springfield
- Some interest in hybrid
- MassDOT provided more information on hybrids and accepted Advisory Committee comments until June 19

Study Schedule

Task	Jun-20				Jul-20				Aug-20				Sep-20			
Task 6: Detailed Analysis of 3 Final Alternatives																
Task 7: Recommendations and Report																
Task 8 -- Civic Engagement																

Study Advisory Committee Meetings

Public Informational Meetings

Draft Report / Final Report



We Are Here

