

Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

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Northern Tier Study: Next Steps

As part of the analysis of the four additional service alternatives, schedule times and trip times (how long a given trip takes from point A to Point B) will be developed for service scenarios. Then, as presented at the Public Workshop held in January, the team will develop ridership levels and estimates for cost to design and build the infrastructure for each scenario. Other cost estimates are developed operation and maintenance of the train service and related infrastructure such as track, signals and locomotives.

Other assessments include community impacts such as economic development and environmental impacts. A Benefit-Cost Analysis, which shows the relative costs against the various benefits, will be developed for each of the service alternatives.

Western Massachusetts Passenger Rail Commission Overview

Established by Section 60 of Chapter 176 of the Acts of 2022, the Commission's charge is to "investigate and receive public testimony concerning public entities now in existence or that may be created by statute with the ability to design, permit, construct, operate and maintain passenger rail service" that is consistent with at least one of the final service alternatives in the Final Report of the East-West Passenger Rail Study.

Since its establishment, the Commission has held public meetings in several Western Massachusetts cities and towns:

- Pittsfield - December 9, 2022
- Greenfield - January 23, 2023
- Northampton - March 21, 2023 (Morning)
- Springfield - March 21, 2023 (Evening)

These hybrid meetings involved attendees offering testimony on a variety of aspects related to passenger rail service and governance. Two more meetings will be conducted in Worcester and Middlesex Counties.

The Commission's work may establish the recommended model for overseeing and funding the development of future intercity passenger rail services in the Commonwealth, as well as overseeing operations and management of the services.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is conducting a study to examine the benefits, costs, and investments necessary to implement passenger rail service from North Adams to Greenfield and Boston, with the speed, frequency, and reliability necessary to be a competitive option for travel along this corridor. Please visit the Study website for more information on the project: <https://www.mass.gov/northern-tier-passenger-rail-study>

If information is needed in another language, please contact the MassDOT Title VI Specialist by phone at (857) 368-8580.

Caso esta informação seja necessária em outro idioma, favor contar o Especialista em Título VI do MassDOT pelo fone 857-368-8580.

Si necesita información en otro lenguaje, favor contactar al especialista de MassDOT del Título VI al 857-368-8580.

如果需要使用其它语言了解信息，请联系马萨诸塞州交通部（MassDOT）《民权法》第六章专职人员，电话 857-368-8580。

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