

Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study

massDOT
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

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June Newsletter

Public Meeting Announcement

The Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study team invites the public to a virtual Public Information Meeting, to be held on **Thursday, July 14 at 6:00 PM via Zoom**. Information about registering for this meeting will be posted to the study website: <https://www.mass.gov/northern-tier-passenger-rail-study>

At this meeting, the study team will share an overview of the study's background, review the existing conditions analysis, and garner feedback on issues and opportunities along the corridor.

Recap of Working Group Meeting #2

The Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study Working Group met for the second time on Wednesday, June 22, 2022. At this meeting, the study team provided a study update and engaged the Working Group in a review and discussion of existing conditions in the study area. Meeting materials, including the StoryMap presentation and video recording, will be made available on the study website.

Massachusetts Intercity Passenger Rail Governance White Paper - Summary and Highlights

In November 2021, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation developed the *Massachusetts Intercity Passenger Rail Governance White Paper* to identify governance options for expanded passenger rail in Western Massachusetts. The White

Paper documented important attributes of passenger rail services that impact operational feasibility and funding options. The document was developed as a follow-up to the *East-West Passenger Rail Study* and includes information relevant to the evaluation of future passenger rail services along the Northern Tier Corridor. The following is a summary of information to highlight as the Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study progresses.

Commuter Rail Service vs. Intercity Rail Passenger Service

According to federal definitions outlined in 49 U.S. Code Subsection 24102:

"[commuter rail passenger transportation](#)" means **short-haul rail passenger transportation in metropolitan and suburban areas** usually having reduced fare, multiple-ride, and commuter tickets and morning and evening peak period operations; and

"[intercity rail passenger transportation](#)" means rail passenger transportation, except [commuter rail passenger transportation](#).

Given the federal definitions, the west-east service alternatives (and services with similar characteristics) would be defined as Intercity Passenger Rail.

Amtrak's Rights of Access

Amtrak is the only railroad that has rights of access to the facilities of any other railroad or regional transportation authority. These access rights provide Amtrak with access to any rail line in the United States and give Amtrak the ability to use any host (owner) railroads' facilities, such as stations or railyards.

Additional Information

The White Paper also provides detail on these and many other rail operational and governance considerations, which could apply to rail service along the Northern Tier Corridor. To review the Massachusetts Intercity Passenger Rail Governance White Paper, please visit the MassDOT East-West Passenger Rail Study website at: <https://www.mass.gov/lists/east-west-passenger-rail-study-documents#governance-white-paper>

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.

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