

# Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study

**massDOT**  
Massachusetts Department of Transportation

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## Upcoming Events Preview

Since the public workshop, the study team has focused on refining the initial two service alternatives and advancing work on Task 4: Potential Service Plans and Alternatives, and Task 5: Alternatives Evaluation and Cost Estimate.

The work from these tasks will be presented at upcoming Working Group and public meetings.

Please use this [link](#) to sign up for Study updates. Information about how to register for and attend these meetings will be made available on the study [website](#) once these events have been scheduled.

## Planning 101 - Benefit-Cost Analysis

The Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study is investigating the feasibility of restoring passenger rail service between North Adams, Greenfield, and Boston North Station. One component used to evaluate the investments, benefits, and costs associated with the potential service alternatives is a benefit-cost analysis (BCA).

A BCA is an evaluation framework to assess the economic advantages (benefits) and disadvantages (costs) of a potential investment. Benefits and costs are quantified in monetary terms to the extent possible. The analysis compares the initial capital costs of the project, as well as the operating and maintenance costs, with the benefits of providing the service. A BCA may be required when applying for certain federal and state grant funds.

The BCA provides measures of the cost effectiveness of a service alternative, such as the ratio of benefits to costs (benefit-cost ratio) or net present value (benefits less costs).

The initial costs include the expenses associated with infrastructure, rolling stock, and other costs necessary to implement the service. These may include the costs of planning, engineering, construction, etc. Operating costs include rolling stock and infrastructure maintenance, insurance, and dispatching.

The potential benefits of the service alternatives include the monetized value of safety and public health benefits, travel time savings, and reductions in emissions. Other benefits may include improved access to jobs, shopping, education, and health care.

A Benefit-Cost Analysis will be developed for each of the Northern Tier Passenger Rail Study service alternatives.

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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>

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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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