

Rail and Transit Report

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Fiscal Year 2025 Transit Grant Programs

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Year-Round Fare Free Service

- \$30 million program open to Regional Transit Authorities (RTAs)
- Supports systemwide, fare free transit service
- Includes, but is not limited to, fixed route and related federally required paratransit services
- Applications due 9/20/24

Transit Connectivity Grant

- Regional Transit Authorities can apply for grants for the creation or altering of routes that advance connectivity between existing public transportation routes.
- \$10 million grant program, applications due 9/20
- For operating projects that increase ridership, increase coverage, and improve reach to low-income individuals



Worcester Regional Transit Authority Transit Hub with Worcester Union Station in distance. May 2024

West Springfield Grade Crossing Elimination

Safety Improvements at First and Front Streets

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A freight train crosses Front Street in West Springfield

- \$20+ million total project, \$2 million CSX contribution, \$18 million federal (FHWA Sec 130).
- Project builds vehicular bridge overpass.
- Design consultant has been selected.
- Preliminary engineering to begin in 2024.
- Improves rail operational efficiency, improves vehicle movements by eliminating frequently blocked crossings.

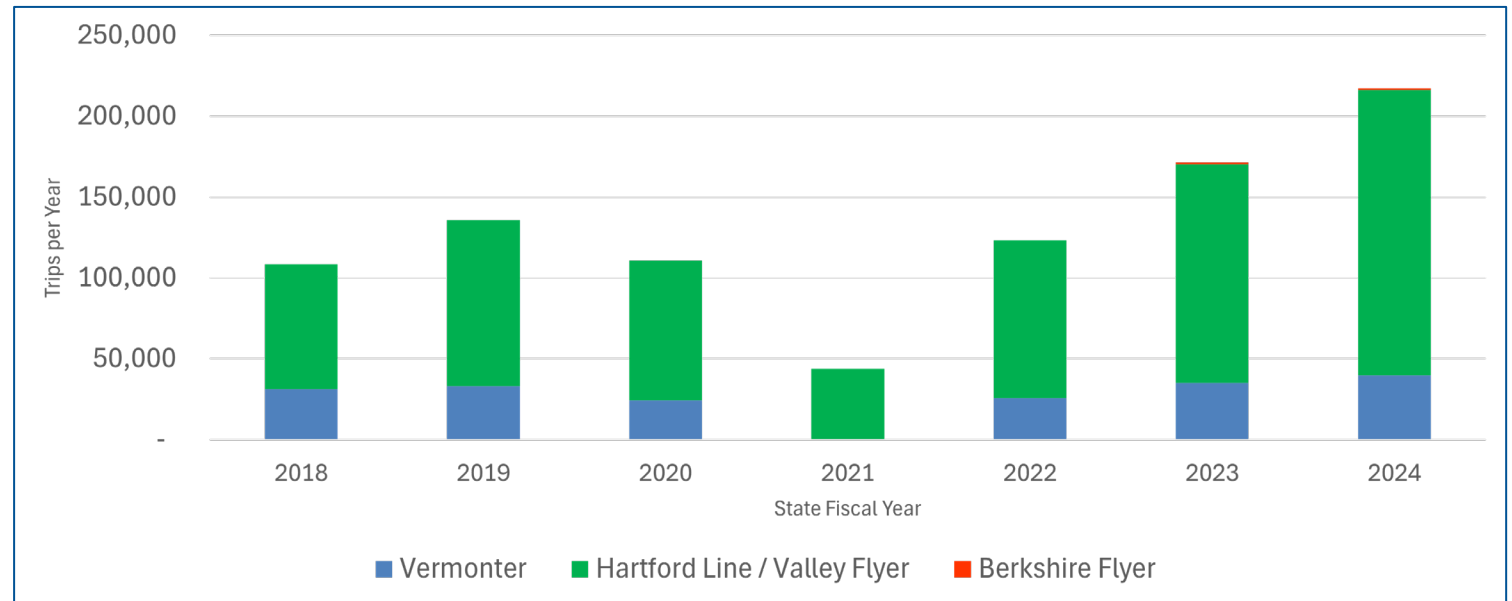
Compass Rail Ridership Updates

Ridership Continues to Grow for Amtrak-Operated, State-Supported Service

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State-Supported Amtrak Services Annual Ridership to Massachusetts Stations

- Today's Hartford Line service began in 2018, and the Valley Flyer began in 2019.
- The Berkshire Flyer has been operating seasonally for most recent three summers.
- MassDOT has continually worked to improve service by adding trips and modifying schedules.
- Ridership has grown 99% between 2018 and 2024.
- Ridership has grown 26% between 2023 and 2024.



Thank You

