



Hello,

Welcome to the Nashua Rail Committee's first update on passenger rail in southern NH. We are a group of passionate leaders and residents who want to unleash the economic opportunities and cultural and educational possibilities of passenger rail to residents of NH and northern Mass. Our goal is to reestablish and reconnect the “capital corridor” rail line from Lowell, Mass to NH - and beyond. We need friends, allies, and volunteers. Read below and please join us (contact information is in the newsletter).

Update on The Capital Corridor Project “A Passenger Rail System for New Hampshire”

Passenger rail for New Hampshire is alive and well. Recent developments at both the State and federal levels are encouraging for the implementation of the Capital Corridor Project. The formation of The Nashua Rail Transit Committee on *August 3, 2017*, has kept the Capital Corridor Project in the forefront of both the federal and local leadership of New Hampshire (NH). The introduction of passenger rail service to Boston will provide NH additional opportunities for economic growth while reducing congestion and pollution. Some of the recent activities are as follows:

Passage of the \$4.1 Billion 10 Year Highway Plan on *July 24, 2020* – The Capital Corridor Rail Project linking NH to Boston was included in the Plan. Approximately \$1 billion of the \$4.1 billion was allocated to improving rail lines, public transportation, state and municipal airports, and other transportation projects *including the Capital Corridor Project*. If the Capital Corridor Project is not in the 10 Year Plan, it won't be funded.

Project Development Phase (PDP) – A competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued and a contractor selected to complete the engineering phase of the Capital Corridor Project. The selection of the successful contractor will be announced late September or early October, 2020. The completion of the two year engineering phase will qualify the Capital Corridor Project for federal funding.

Federal Initiatives – The New Hampshire Congressional delegation has filed Bills in the House and Senate supporting passenger rail service in NH. The House Bill has bipartisan support (Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R) from PA and Rep. Chris Pappas (D) from NH). Both Bills have been assigned to their respective Congressional sub- committees for review and recommendation to the full Committee.

- **Representative Annie Kuster (D)** – Introduced House H.R. 5947 “Invest in American Railroads Act”. This Federal Transit Authority (FTA) Bill addresses issues with financing the development of passenger and short line railroads. This Bill is included in HR-2 which has been passed by the House.

- **Senator Maggie Hassan (D)** – Introduced Senate S.3387 “Capital Investment Grant Program Improvement Act of 2020”. Increases funding for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) sponsored initiatives such as the Capital Corridor.

Pan Am Railways – Pan Am Railways, owner of the Capital Corridor Right-of-Way (ROW), is up for sale with a number of potential suitors. The sale of Pan Am and its holdings will be closely monitored.

The future for passenger rail in New Hampshire looks promising. With continuing support from the NH legislature and our Congressional delegation, we will be able to finish the engineering phase, build a viable passenger rail system that extends from Lowell, Massachusetts, to New Hampshire allowing access to Boston. This system will provide relief from our congested highways, access to the Manchester Boston Regional Airport, and will provide sustainable economic growth and jobs in both NH and Massachusetts.

Your support for this important project is essential for its success. For additional information, please email the City of Nashua Office of Economic Development: [Office of Economic Development](#)

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