

NHRTA Goals

April 18, 2008

In order to fulfill the goals of legislation establishing the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority the following Goals and Work Priorities are established:

Short Term New & Extended Service:

Plans* will be developed that identify and addresses opportunities for:

- Establishment of passenger rail service on the ‘**Capital Corridor**’ connecting Boston to Nashua, Manchester and Concord including Manchester Regional Airport
- Extension of MBTA passenger rail commuter service from Haverhill to Plaistow, New Hampshire on the ‘**Coastal Corridor**’

Existing Service, State Policy or Macro Planning Issues:

In addition to its immediate efforts to promote and implement service extensions on the lines specified above, The NHRTA will, as part of its overall responsibilities:

- identify liability issues affecting new or extended passenger rail service in New Hampshire and participate in developing recommendations or legislation for satisfactory resolution
- develop and execute a process for New Hampshire to contribute a fair share to the ongoing costs of the **Amtrak Downeaster** service on the **Coastal Corridor**
- work with Regional Planning Commissions, local officials and interested citizens to identify passenger rail service needs and plans for meeting those needs in all areas of the state and, in coordination with NHDOT, amend the NH Rail Plan to include a clear vision of restored and improved passenger and freight rail service across a statewide network connected and coordinated with neighboring states including:
 - the **Connecticut River Corridor** (-)
 - the **Lakes Corridor** (Somersworth-Conway)
 - the **Rockingham Corridor** (Newfields-Portsmouth)
 - the **International Corridor** (Concord extension-Montreal, PQ)
 - the **Mountain Division Corridor** (Conway-Portland, Maine)

(continued)

- work with NHDOT to secure infrastructure and corridor preservation strategies for future rail services and infrastructure improvements integrated into a statewide and regional transportation network
- work with NHDOT to incorporate the NHRTA vision and goals into the State Long-Range Transportation Plan so that all local and state agencies are working from a common set of goals.
- identify and address solutions for operational, easement and insurance cost-sharing between stakeholders at existing and planned regional station facilities
- enhance the NHDOT State Rail Map to include representation of planned and future passenger rail service and freight enhancement corridors which connect New Hampshire communities and interconnect with northern New England.

Necessary Plan* Definition Steps:

For all proposed new or extended rail service the NHRTA will facilitate or complete comprehensive reviews and plans to include (but not be limited to):

- track and ROW ownership,
- conditions and requirements to establish Class IV (79 mph) passenger rail service and incremental costs necessary to provide such service.
- ownership and operational issues MBTA, Amtrak, Pan Am Railways or other.
- station stops and service frequency along with a proposed schedule with approximate arrival and departure times,
- potential multi-modal transportation links for each station,
- capital costs for train sets, stations, multi-modal links, track upgrades, and signaling upgrades options,
- operational costs of the service as well as ongoing station maintenance and insurance costs,
- all state, local and federal sources of revenues for capital and operational costs, including h as rail ticket sales and parking fees,
- development of a funding plan to address gaps between costs and revenues.
- development of operating agreements and enter into contracts for use of right-of-way owned by MBTA and the Pan Am Railways.
- completion of all engineering, environmental and design studies required as a condition of funding or to facilitate the development of passenger service.
- securing development funding
- securing commitments to funding for the first five years of commuter rail service operations.
- completion of construction of necessary rail infrastructure with the assistance of the right-of-way owners, the MBTA and Pan Am Railways.
- completion of operating agreements to commence service