



RAIL PASSENGERS  
ASSOCIATION

# Critical Passenger Rail Infrastructure Investments Along the Northeast Corridor

## Connecting Millions of Passengers and the U.S. Economy

The Northeast Corridor (NEC) is a major artery of travel and business in the U.S., carrying hundreds of thousands of people daily. New York and New Jersey are at the heart of the NEC, where people utilize Amtrak and NJ Transit to commute to and from New York Penn Station. The current NEC infrastructure is at a turning point, requiring new funding for a variety of rail projects, including two new Hudson River Tunnel tubes and rehabilitation of the existing 112-year-old tunnel. Should the massive rail infrastructure effort not move forward, the entirety of NEC travel could come to a grinding halt.

The Federal Railroad Administration's *Northeast Future* EIS for the Corridor identified the Hudson River Tunnels and New York's Pennsylvania Station as the largest bottleneck on the Corridor. Providing additional capacity here will open up slots for additional trains from North Carolina, Virginia and Pennsylvania to operate on the Corridor, along with regional commuter service from New Jersey and Connecticut.

## Bipartisan Investment in the Northeast Corridor

The Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2021—also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—provides as much as \$30 billion in funding for the NEC over the five-year life of the bill:

- \$6 billion in Amtrak Northeast Corridor Grants
- \$24 billion\* in Federal-State Intercity Passenger Rail Grants

**Rail Passengers has joined Congress in encouraging the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve and release the Northeast Corridor Inventory as soon as possible.** This document will identify high priority passenger rail projects, granting them eligibility for federal funding provided by the BIL. Work already done by the Northeast Corridor Commission across multiple capital investment plans is more than sufficient for the USDOT to release a list in advance of Nov. 2022 deadline established by statute.

## Northeast Corridor by the Numbers\*\*

- **2,200** – The number of trains per day that traverse the region
- **800,000** – The number of daily riders on the NEC
- **260,000,000** – The annual number of passenger trips on the NEC
- **500,000,000** – The number of passengers projected to use the NEC each year by 2040
- **17%** - The percentage of the U.S. population that lives along the NEC
- **97** – The number of Fortune 500 companies headquartered along the NEC
- **20%** - The percentage of the U.S. GDP generated in the NEC

\*Competitive grant program, capped at \$24 billion for NEC projects.

\*\*2018 ridership figures.

- **\$2.6 Trillion** – The total GDP generated annually by NEC-connected communities.

## NEC Infrastructure: Ready to Build

After decades of underinvestment, the states along the NEC have partnered with Amtrak to do the advance-work on several key infrastructure projects that are simply waiting for federal funding.

- **Hudson River Tunnel Project: \$12.9 billion** – Environmental review completed; design/construction funding needed
- **Portal North Bridge: \$1.5 billion** – Construction contract awarded for State of Good Repair replacement bridge; Portal South Bridge capacity expansion next up
- **Baltimore & Potomac Tunnel: \$5 billion** – Completed environmental review, design/construction funding needed
- **Susquehanna River Bridge Project: \$1.7 billion** – Completed environmental review, design/construction funding needed
- **Walk Bridge: \$460 million** – Completed environmental review, design underway, construction funding needed

## State and Local Commitments to Critical NEC Infrastructure

State and local governments along the NEC have stepped up to identify local sources of funding for critical projects.

- **\$2.158 billion** – Port Authority Gateway Development Corporation RRIF Loan
- **\$1.643 billion** – New Jersey Transit Gateway Development Corporation RRIF Loan
- **\$1.750 billion** – New York State Gateway Development Corporation RRIF Loan
- **\$35 million** – Port Authority Design Contribution (Cash)
- **\$5.585 billion** – Total commitment from local sources

## The Value of North America's Busiest Rail Tunnel\*\*

The Regional Plan Association has quantified what a four-year shutdown of the Hudson River tunnels would mean for the U.S. economy:

- **10,000** more daily drivers
- **38,000** lost daily ridership on NJ Transit
- **250,000** drivers who will see a longer rush hour commute, half of which will be 30 mins or longer.
- **65%** increase in airfare prices in flight from DC to NYC
- **\$7 billion** in lost Federal, state, and local taxes
- **\$16 billion** in total cost to the U.S economy
- **\$22 billion** in lost property value

\*\*2018 ridership figures.