

New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Project

Gateway to New England



Program Update
July 2011

New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Corridor

► Glory Days: 1925-1955

- 22 trains/day in 1947
- *Bankers Ltd* – 3-hour service to NYC
- *Sleeper, parlor & grill cars on most trains*
- *Connections to Boston, Albany & Montreal*
- *Overnight to NYC, Pittsburgh & Washington*



► Amtrak Today

- 6 daily round-trip Amtrak trains
 - 4 round-trip shuttles between New Haven and Springfield
 - Only 2 roundtrip trains (including the Vermonter) operate directly south of New Haven



Rebirth of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Corridor

▶ Long-Term Vision:

- Up to 25 daily Amtrak & NHHS Regional round trip trains
- 30-minute peak hour service
- Hourly service during off-peak
- High-speed express trains
- Direct and connecting service at NHV to/from NYC, VT & MA
- Reduced-price “commuter” fares honored on both Amtrak & Regional trains between NHHS stations

▶ Future New Stations

- North Haven; Newington; West Hartford; Enfield

▶ Vibrant Station Area Development



Regional Vision



Making Connections

- ▶ **Grand Central, Penn Station or Boston**
 - Acela trains to NYP/BOS
 - Metro-North trains to Grand Central Terminal
- ▶ **Expanded Service to Massachusetts/VT**
 - Knowledge Corridor to Greenfield
 - Boston-Springfield-NHV-NYP via the Inland Route)
- ▶ **Bus Shuttle to Bradley Airport at Windsor Locks**
- ▶ **Transfer to/from New Britain Busway at Hartford & Future Newington Station & West Hartford**

Time	Number	Train
4:02	3034	SHORE LINE EA
4:11	135	REGIONAL
4:32	6547	METRO-NORTH
4:41	57	VERMONT
4:45	88	REGIONAL
4:50	488	REGIONAL
4:52	6549	METRO-NORTH

The Team

- ▶ **Connecticut DOT**
 - Jim Redeker, Acting Commissioner
 - John Bernick, Project Manager
 - Mark Alexander, Environmental Planning
- ▶ **Program Management/Oversight**
 - Amtrak
 - Federal Railroad Administration
 - Federal Transit Administration
- ▶ **Permits**
 - Connecticut DEP
 - US Army Corps of Engineers



The Rail Corridor

- ▶ **First Trains: 1844**
- ▶ **Length: 62 miles**
- ▶ **Tracks**
 - 23.3 miles of double track
 - 38.7 miles of single track
- ▶ **Bridges & Culverts: 180**
 - Hartford Viaduct
 - Connecticut River
- ▶ **At-Grade Crossings: 38 public**
- ▶ **Current Stations:**
 - New Haven; Wallingford;
Meriden; Berlin; Hartford;
Windsor; Windsor Locks;
Springfield



How We Got Here

- ▶ **2005 Implementation Plan for Commuter Rail Service**
 - Quantified benefits & costs of a start-up commuter rail service
- ▶ **2009 Draft Environmental Assessment**
 - Evaluated impacts of commuter rail along the NHHS corridor
 - Public meetings in 2008
- ▶ **2009 High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program**
 - FRA establishes new program to upgrade rail corridors
 - Amtrak & CT develop robust NHHS operating plan with intercity & NHHS train service
 - NHHS to serve as Gateway for expanded Vermonter & Massachusetts service
 - Federal funding grants awarded in 2009 (\$40 million; 2010 (\$120.9 million) and 2011 (\$30 million)
- ▶ **2011 Program “Kick-Off”**
 - Program Management Team & final design teams
 - New NHHS Environmental Assessment for high speed & intercity rail service

Program Scope:

Modernizing the Infrastructure & Service

1. Track & signal improvements
2. Bridge & drainage upgrades to accommodate double tracking
3. 38 At-grade crossing upgrades to enhance safety
4. Station enhancements & future new stations
5. New train equipment

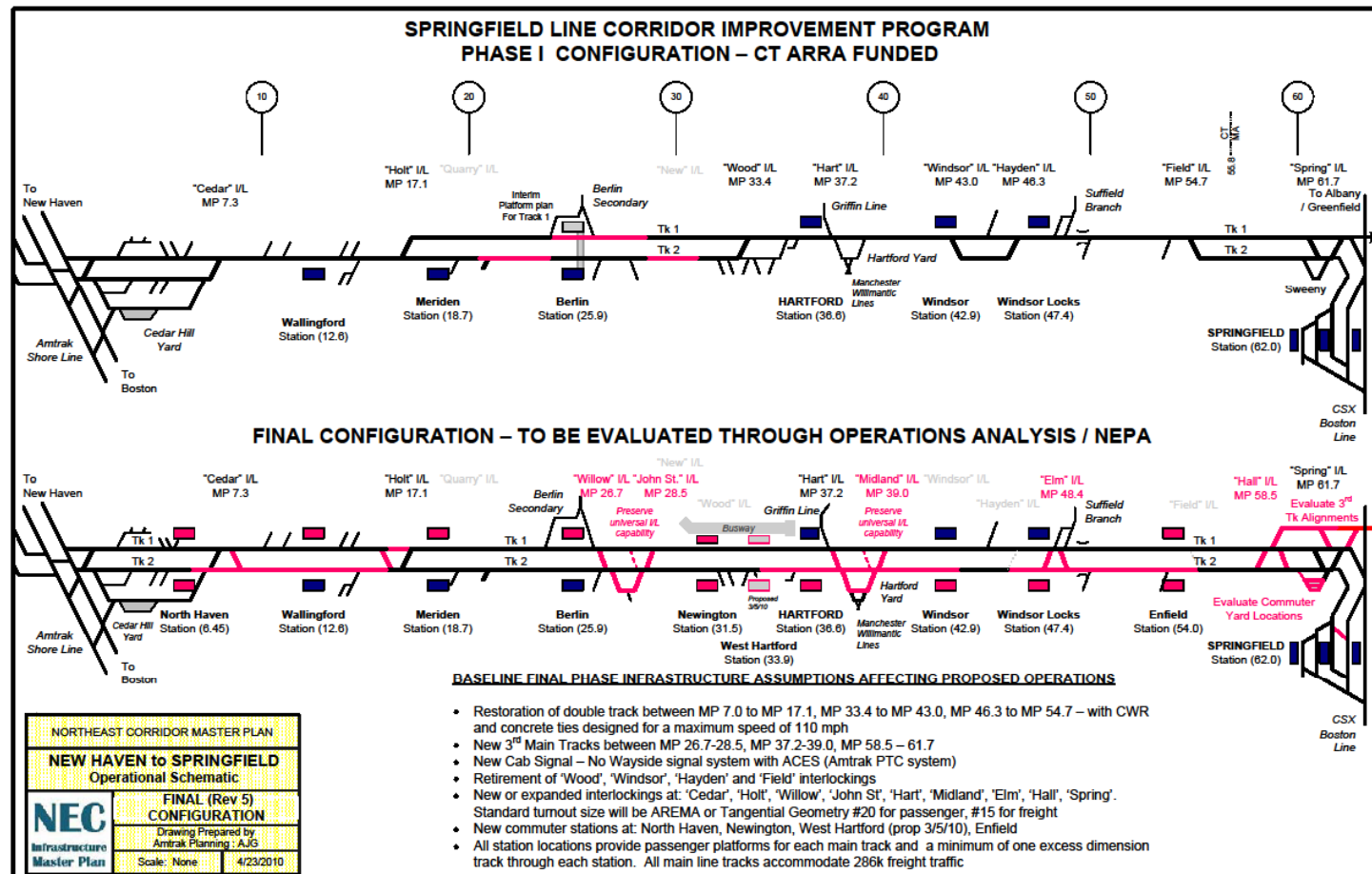


Program Scope: Track Program

- ▶ **Purpose: capacity; reliability; safety**
- ▶ **Full Project Scope**
 - **44.5 miles of new double track and sidings**
 - **9 new interlockings so trains can switch tracks at high speed**
 - **Positive Train Control (PTC) for safe control of trains operations**



NHHS Line Requires Double Tracking For Capacity & Reliability



Program Scope: State of Good Repair

- ▶ **Purpose: modernize & repair the basic facilities**
- ▶ **Full Project Scope**
 - Upgrade/repair 180 bridges & culverts
 - Address century-old drainage issues
 - Rationalize unused sidings/switches
- ▶ **Future Work: Repairs to Hartford Viaduct & Conn River Bridge**



Program Scope: At-Grade Crossing Safety

- ▶ **Purpose:** Enhance at-grade crossing safety; meet current standards
- ▶ **Full Project Scope**
 - Provide quad-gate or “channelized” median dividers at all public crossing to maximize safety
 - Meet current road standards/turning requirements at crossings
 - Evaluate potential for Quiet Zone treatment



Program Scope: Modernizing The Stations

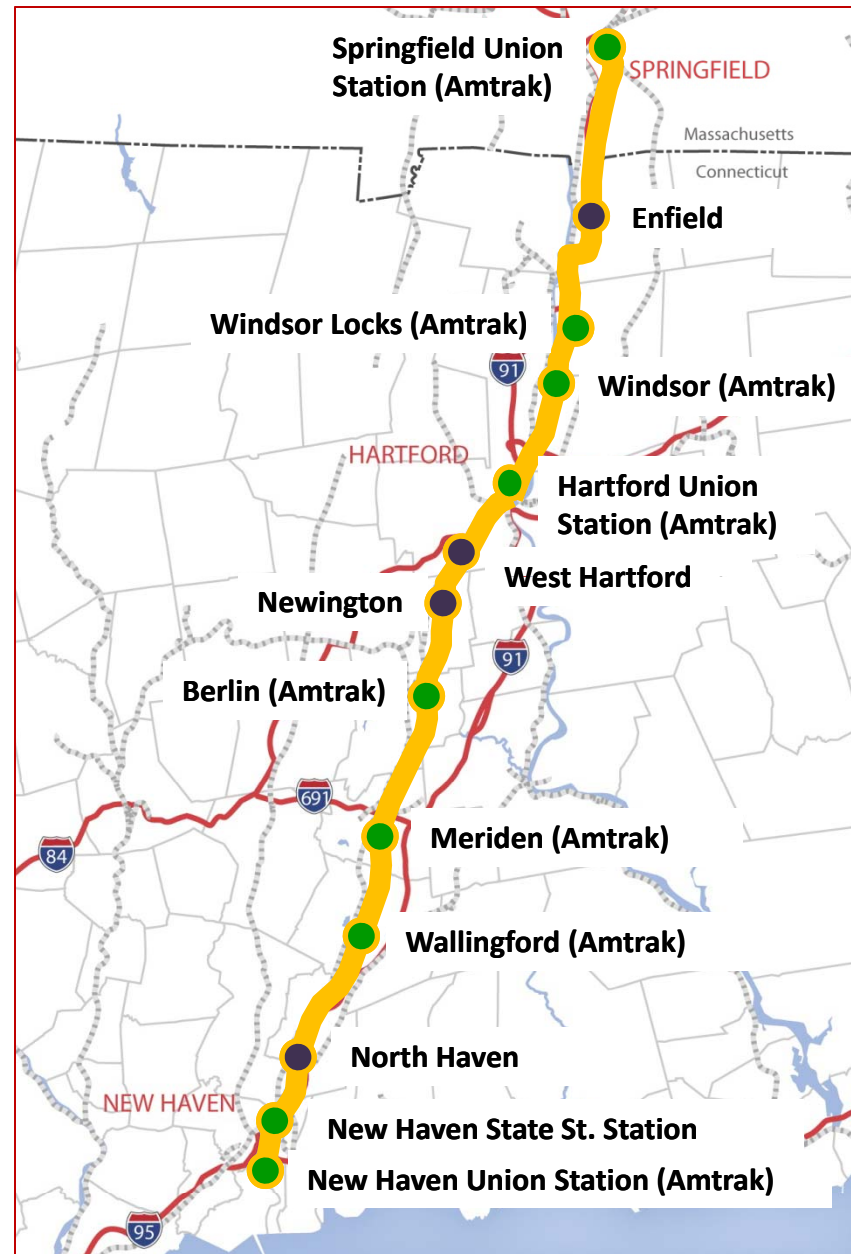
- ▶ **Purpose:** Enhance accessibility; speed boarding; stimulate local development
- ▶ **Scope**
 - High-level platforms on both sides of tracks; “up & over” access
 - Parking evaluation with the towns
 - Station relocation in coordination with the towns
- ▶ **Future New Stations for NHHS train service**
 - North Haven; Newington, West Hartford; and Enfield
 - Design in Phases 1 & 2; construction with additional funding



NHHS Corridor

● Existing Stations

● New Stations



Program Scope: NHHS Trains

- ▶ **Purpose:** meet immediate equipment needs & plan for future procurement
- ▶ **Scope**
 - Continue use of Amtrak's four Springfield-New Haven "shuttle" train sets
 - Transfer Shore Line East train sets following delivery of M-8s
 - Plan future procurement of new equipment for expanded NHHS service
 - An additional Lay-over facility in Massachusetts to clean/store trains at night
- ▶ **Develop "brand" for NHHS trains & stations**



Current Funding Status

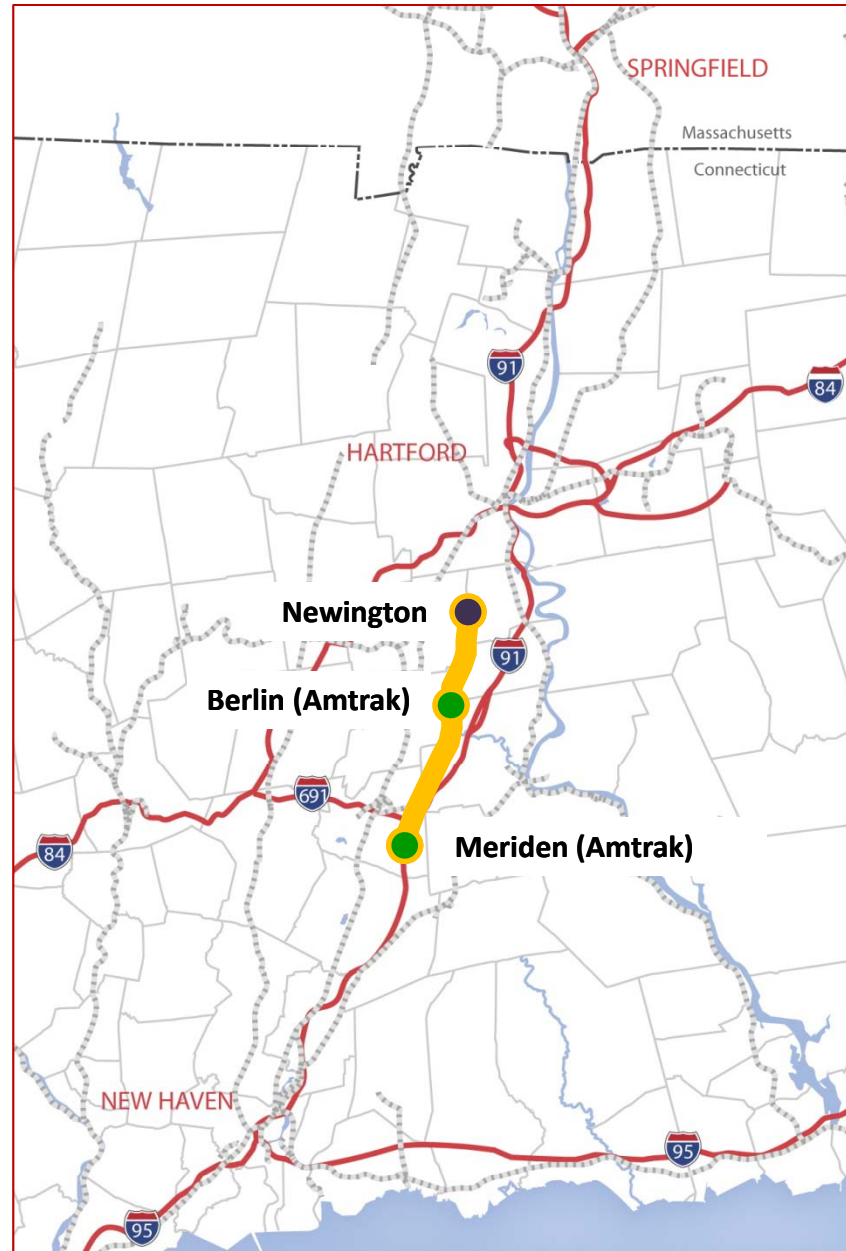
- ▶ **Preliminary Program Cost: \$647 million**
 - Does not include: new stations; new trains; Upgrades to the Connecticut River Bridge or Hartford Viaduct
- ▶ **Funding Awards & Bond Proceeds Available to Date: \$471 million**
 - Meriden-Berlin: \$40 million in Federal funding
 - New Haven-Hartford: \$121 million in Federal funding
 - Hartford-Springfield: \$30 million in Federal Funding
 - State Funding: \$280 million in bond authority
- ▶ **Additional Annual Funding Opportunities**
 - Additional FRA funding under a continuing six-year HSR funding program
 - Other funding sources: FTA for new stations and regional trains

Phasing NHHS Improvements

- ▶ **Phase 1 Meriden-Newington**
- ▶ **Phase 2 New Haven-Hartford**
- ▶ **Phase 3 Hartford-Springfield**
- ▶ **Phase 4 Regional Rail Upgrades – FTA Funding Sources**
- ▶ **Phase 5 Ongoing State-of-Good-Repair Program**

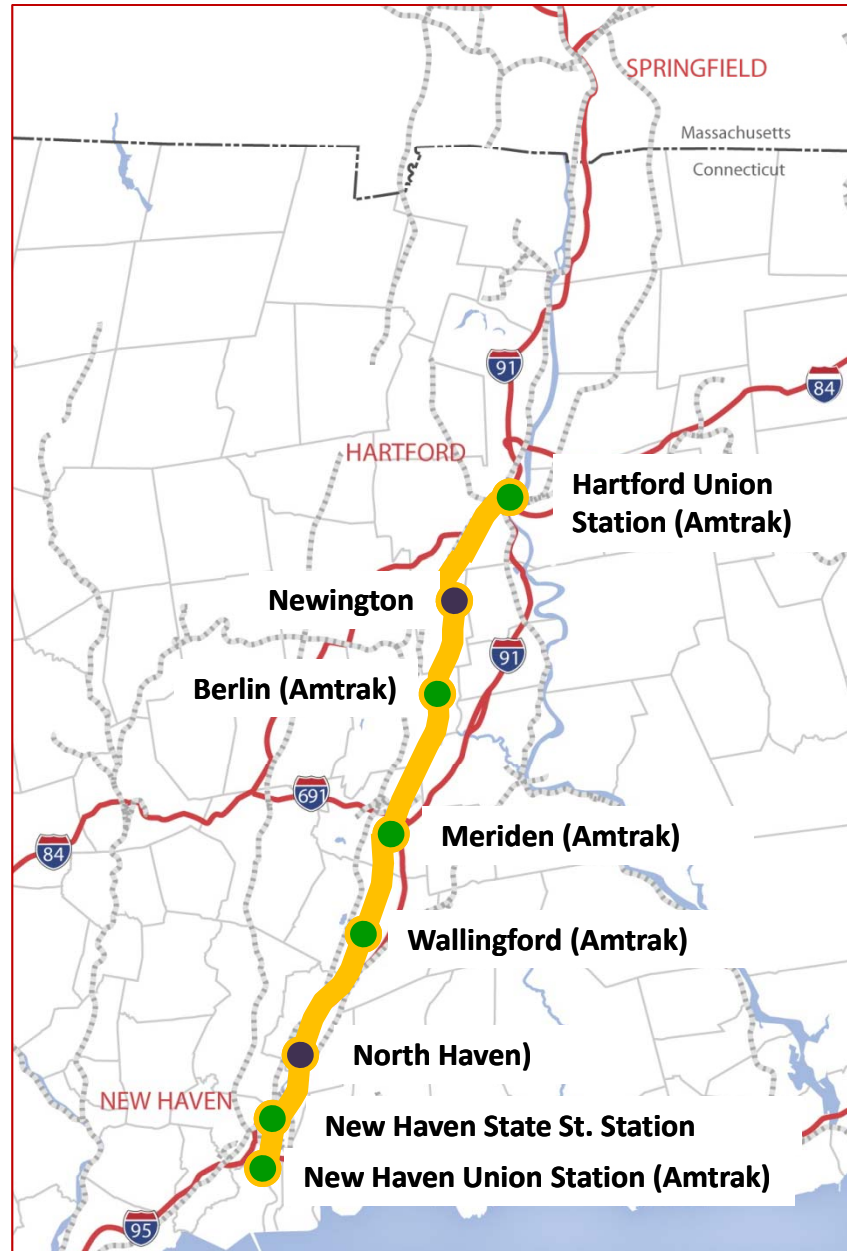
Phasing NHHS Improvements

- ▶ **Phase 1 Meriden-Newington**
 - Adds 10.2 miles of second track between Meriden and Newington
 - Cost: \$60 million
 - \$40 million Federal;
 - \$20 million State)
 - Funding fully obligated



Phasing NHHS Improvements

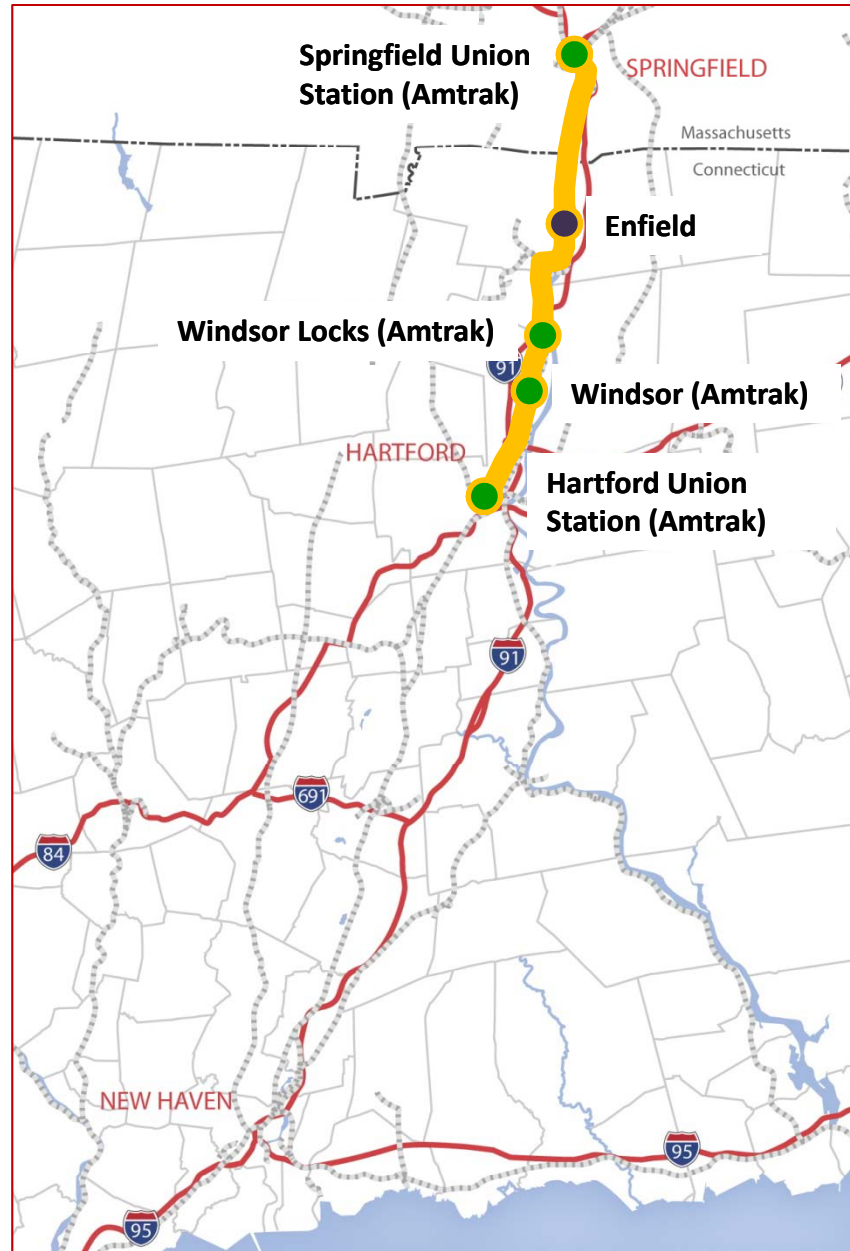
- ▶ **Phase 2 New Haven-Hartford**
 - Adds all new track, signal, bridge and station infrastructure for additional service between new Haven and Hartford
 - Adds new service during peak morning/evening rush hour
 - Cost: \$262 million
 - \$121 Federal
 - \$141 State
 - Fully funded



Phasing NHHS Improvements

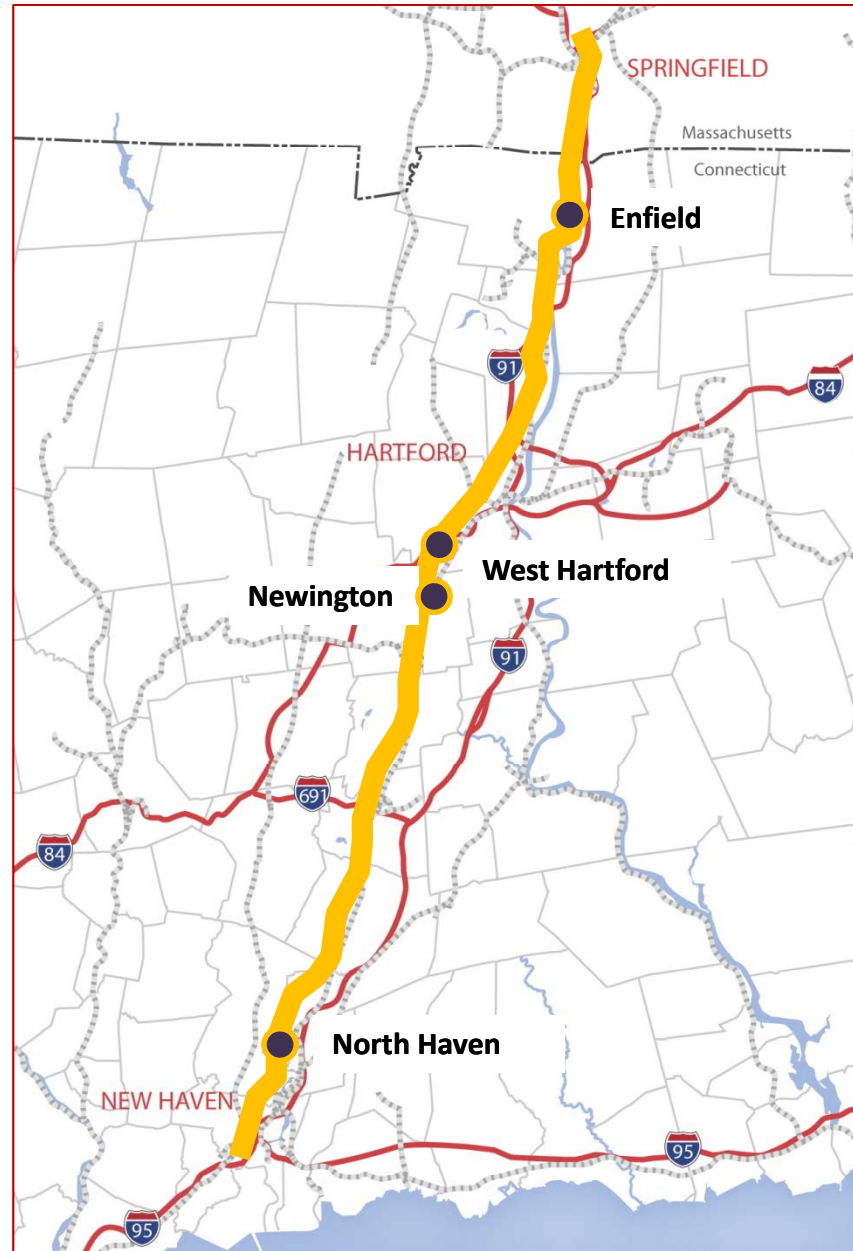
► Phase 3 Hartford-Springfield

- Extends track, signal, bridge and station improvements to Springfield
- Provides capacity for up to 50 trains/day
- Cost: \$324 million
 - \$227 million Federal
 - \$97 million State
 - \$30 million in Federal funding awarded to-date



Phasing NHHS Improvements

- ▶ **Phase 4 Regional Rail Upgrades – FTA Funding Sources**
 - Constructs four new NHHS stations (North Haven; Newington; West Hartford; Enfield)
 - New train equipment
 - Efforts underway to secure FTA funding



Phasing NHHS Improvements

- ▶ **Phase 5 Ongoing State-of-Good-Repair Program**
 - **Repair Hartford Viaduct and Connecticut River Bridge**
 - **Upgrade other structures and facilities as required**



Why Make the Investment?

► Fast, Convenient Regional Transportation

- Connects/integrates regional transportation across New England
- More frequent service
- Faster service

► Creates Engine For Local Economic & Station Area Development

- Construction-related & long-term job growth
- Provides the connections to livable communities along the rail line



► Establishes An Interconnected Public Transportation System for Connecticut's Future

- Metro North – Shoreline East
- Amtrak – Local bus services
- Busway – Bradley International Airport

Significant Regional Service Expansion

New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Service	Round-Trip Train Frequencies 2010	Round-Trip Train Frequencies 2030
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHHS Regional Amtrak 	<p>0</p> <p>6</p>	<p>10</p> <p>15</p>
Total	6	25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NHHS Shuttle Springfield-WAS St. Albans-WAS White River Junction / Bellow Falls / Greenfield-New Haven BOS-Springfield WAS BOS-NHV 	<p>4</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>14</p> <p>1</p> <p>1</p> <p>5</p> <p>3</p> <p>1</p>

Significant Trip Time Improvements

Station	Best Amtrak Trip Time to NYP (Serving all Amtrak stations) 2010 (Train 141)	Best Amtrak Trip Time to NYP (Serving all Amtrak stations) 2030 (Train141)
Hartford CT	2:43	2:10
Springfield MA	3:20	2:49
White River Junction VT	7:36	5:32
Greenfield MA	--	3:49

Significant Regional Benefits Transportation Alternatives, Jobs & the Environment

► Transportation

- Ridership: 1.26 million new annual trips by 2030
- Service to NYC
- Express bus connection at Bradley
- 1.15 million car trips diverted to rail by 2030

► New Jobs

- Approximately 13,000 construction and related jobs

► Environment

- Over 3.2 million gallons/year of fuel saved Over 25,000 metric tons less carbon/year

► Transit-Oriented Development at Stations



Near-Term Schedule

- 1. Finalize Phase 1 & 2 Service Plan**
 - Develop the operating plan
 - Scope the improvements
- 2. Execute FRA Grants**
- 3. Apply for additional Phase 3 Funding**
- 4. Complete NHHS Environmental Assessment**
- 5. Initiate Engineering for Infrastructure Upgrades Required for Phase 1 & 2 Service**
- 6. Complete design: 2014**
- 7. Launch Service: 2016**



Schedule

TASK	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Finalize Phase 1 & 2 Service Plan	✓					
• Develop Operating Plan	✓					
• Scope Improvements	✓					
Apply for Phase 3 Funding	✓	✓				
Complete Environmental Assessment	✓					
Initiate Engineering for upgrades Required for Phase 1 & 2 Service	✓					
Complete Design						
Construction						
Launch Service						★

Working With Our Partners To Advance The Project

▶ Amtrak Partnership

- Engineering/construction agreements
- Coordinated service plan & connections
- Honoring commuter fares

▶ Massachusetts & Vermont

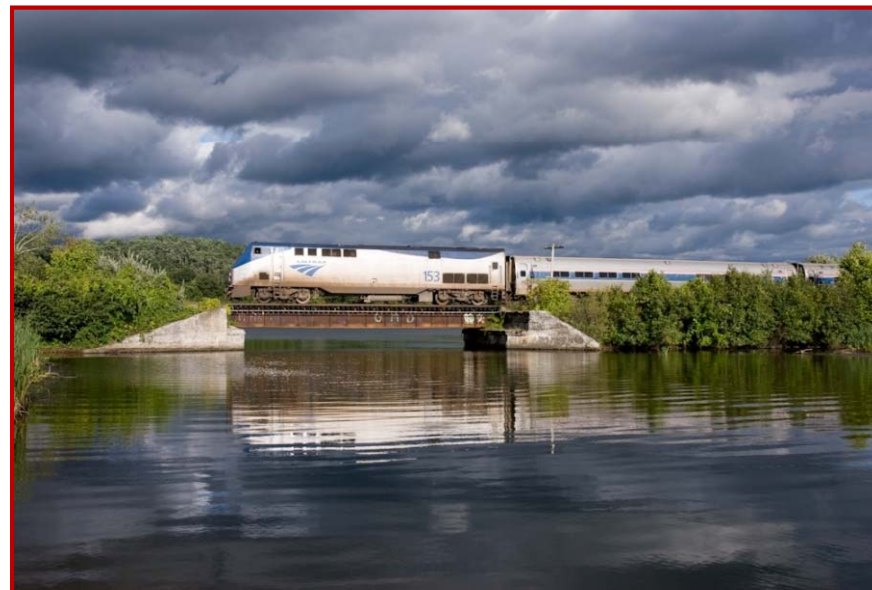
- Coordinating environmental studies
- Developing regional support

▶ Freight Railroads

- Avoiding impacts on existing operations
- Scheduling trains to maximize reliability of passenger service

▶ Our Towns & Cities

- Optimizing station area development
- Addressing at-grade crossing concerns
- Planning for construction

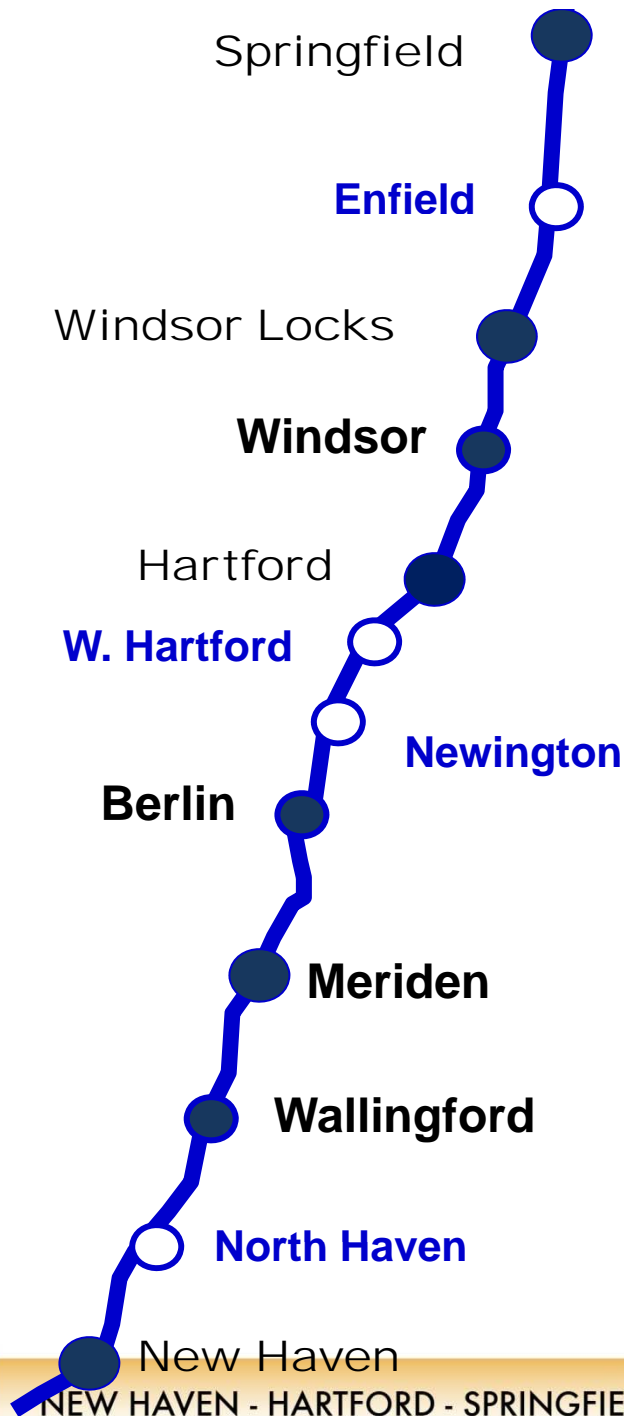


Proactive Public Involvement Process

- ▶ **Regular Stakeholder Meetings**
 - Towns
 - Adjacent property owners
 - Institutional stakeholders
- ▶ **Continuous Public Outreach**
 - Up-to-date, interactive website
 - Project updates
 - Project specific issues: crossings; stations
 - Newsletter & Email blasts
 - Website comment forum
 - Multi-lingual information
- ▶ **At Your Service**
 - CT staff/PMT available for questions, updates, heads-up, complaints
- ▶ **Outreach Tailored for Each Town**



Coordination With Towns & Regions



Group Briefings

- Regular meetings with towns
- Held at DOT or other central location

Individual Meetings

- Separately with each town on local issues

Board or Council Briefings

- Regional board and town council briefings as requested



NHHS Rail Project Contacts

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