



# New York - Vermont Bi-State Intercity Passenger Rail Study



March 2011

## Project Study Area



Colored lines represent existing rail infrastructure

Full-scale area map available at  
[www.ny-vt-passengerrail.org](http://www.ny-vt-passengerrail.org)

## The New York – Vermont Bi-State Intercity Passenger Rail Study is underway!

The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTTrans) and the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), are working together to identify and establish intercity passenger rail service to parts of southwestern Vermont, and adjacent areas in New York that are currently underserved or un-served. The project study area, which is generally located between Albany/Rensselaer, NY and Rutland, VT, is shown to the left.

The *Vision for the New England High-Speed and Intercity Rail Network*, collectively developed by the State Departments of Transportation in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, states that the “New England vision of the future regional rail system shares the national goals of ensuring safe and efficient transportation choices that will seamlessly link...communities with an integrated rail and transportation network.” The *Vision* identifies Vermont’s Western Corridor, a 200-mile corridor that stretches between the Massachusetts and Quebec borders, as a priority corridor that will provide direct service down the western side of the state connecting Burlington, Rutland, and Bennington with Albany and on to New York City via the Empire Corridor. Intercity passenger rail service identified within the project study area will form the southern leg of a rail connection along the Western Corridor.

### Project Goals:

The study aims to identify an intercity passenger rail service option that will:

- ◆ Provide service to un-served or underserved areas in southwestern Vermont and adjacent areas in eastern New York;
- ◆ Offer a competitive transportation mode by providing superior operating speeds and service frequency;
- ◆ Improve access to public transportation services and linkages/connections between travel modes;
- ◆ Improve the economic vitality of the region by enhancing connectivity, supporting recreation and tourism and encouraging sustainable development;
- ◆ Protect regional air quality by reducing car trips within the region.

Intercity passenger rail has long been a transportation priority in New York and Vermont, and this study is intended to be a first step towards providing intercity passenger rail services to parts of the project study area that are currently lacking adequate service. The study will include the following major steps:

- Identify and evaluate reasonable intercity passenger rail service alternatives;
- Complete Federal environmental documentation and reviews;
- Develop preliminary engineering materials; and
- Develop an implementation plan to identify the management approach and financial plan for the proposed service.

The study is scheduled to be completed in Summer 2012. At its completion, the study will produce all necessary planning work needed to get the project into the FRA’s “pipeline of future projects”, the first step towards establishing passenger rail service within the project study area.

A consultant team, led by Vanasse Hangen Brustlin, Inc., will work closely with the public, agencies, and stakeholders, including the railroad owners and operators within the project study area, the Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Regional Planning Commissions and various community groups to identify the best options for providing intercity passenger rail service that will satisfy the needs and goals for the region.





## Project Schedule

|                                   | 2011   |        |        |       | 2012   |        |        |      |
|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------|------|
|                                   | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall  | Winter | Spring | Summer | Fall |
| Study Kick-off                    | ★      |        |        |       |        |        |        |      |
| Public Workshops                  |        | ★      | ★      |       | ★      | ★      |        |      |
| Alternatives Analysis             |        | —————  |        |       |        |        |        |      |
| Select Preferred Alternative      |        |        | ★      |       |        |        |        |      |
| Generate Service Development Plan |        |        | —————  |       |        |        |        |      |
| Preliminary Engineering           |        |        | —————  |       |        |        |        |      |
| Environmental Evaluations         |        |        |        | ————— |        |        |        |      |
| Circulate Draft EA                |        |        |        |       | ★      |        |        |      |
| Circulate Final EA                |        |        |        |       |        |        | ★      |      |
| Release FONSI                     |        |        |        |       |        |        | ★      |      |

*Get involved!*

Please attend Public Meeting #1 to share your views - all input will be considered as the study process moves forward! The meeting will include a brief slide presentation, followed by break-out sessions and a Q&A session.

Date: Tuesday, March 22, 2011

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Place: Bennington Fire Station  
130 River Street, 3rd Floor  
Bennington VT 05201

Parking and entry with elevator access at rear of building.

EA: Environmental Assessment      FONSI: Finding of No Significant Impact

## Did You Know...

- ◆ There are four freight rail operators within the project study area – Canadian Pacific, CSX, Pan Am Railways, and Vermont Rail Systems (Clarendon and Pittsford and Vermont Railway); Amtrak operates the intercity passenger rail service in the project study area.
- ◆ Intercity passenger rail service is available in portions of the project study area (mainly in eastern-central New York) on Amtrak’s Ethan Allen, Vermonter, and Adirondack service lines.
- ◆ Rutland is the only city in southwestern Vermont served by intercity passenger rail.
- ◆ Other intercity transportation (buses) is currently provided in the region by Greyhound, Yankee Trails, Marble Valley Regional Transit, and the Green Mountain Community Network.



For more information about the study, please visit: [www.ny-vt-passengerail.org](http://www.ny-vt-passengerail.org)

## Study Stakeholder Committee

The study will be guided by several committees with representation from the VTrans, NYSDOT, and the partnering Regional Planning Commissions as well as other key organizations. The stakeholder committee includes representatives from the following organizations:

- Amtrak
- Adirondack/Glens Falls Transportation Council
- Bennington County Regional Commission
- Canadian Pacific Railway
- Capital District Transportation Committee
- CSX
- Empire State Passengers Association
- Federal Railroad Administration
- Friends of Rutland Rail
- NYSDOT
- Pan Am Railways
- Rutland Railway Association
- Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- Southwestern Vermont Rail Corridor Steering Committee
- VTrans
- Vermont Rail Advocacy Network
- Vermont Rail Systems

## Contact for information:

Costa Pappis  
Vermont Agency of Transportation  
(802) 828-5790  
[costa.pappis@state.vt.us](mailto:costa.pappis@state.vt.us)

Tim Conway  
New York State Dept. of Transportation  
(518) 485-9234  
[tconway@dot.state.ny.us](mailto:tconway@dot.state.ny.us)

