

## Environmental Assessment

CTDOT is conducting an environmental review of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield Rail Program, in accordance with federal and state environmental policy. The environmental review process will address any potential impacts resulting from the proposed High Speed, Intercity Passenger, and Regional Rail Service improvements along the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield rail corridor. The review will result in a joint Federal Environmental Assessment/State Environmental Impact Evaluation (EA/EIE).

This environmental document will provide decision-makers with the detailed information they need to advance this project to final design and construction. Approval of the EA/EIE by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), along with concurrence from the Office of Policy & Management in Connecticut, is a critical step in obligating the FY2010 award to Connecticut of \$120.9 million under the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program and advancing the NHHS rail program.

### A Forum for Public Outreach

A major objective of the NEPA/CEPA process is to provide the public with information about the proposed project and to provide a forum for comments about the project, its impacts and proposed mitigation. Scoping sessions were held for rail improvements along the NHHS corridor in 2008 and 2009, along with a series of public meetings with town and community leaders.

When the Draft EA/EIE is published, there will be a 30-day comment period, during which CTDOT, FRA, and FTA will hold formal public hearings to present detailed findings of the EA/EIE and solicit public comment. Once the dates for these public hearings are determined, they will be posted on the [www.NHHSrail.com](http://www.NHHSrail.com) website and provided to local news media.

All comments received during the comment period will be addressed and included within the Final EA/EIE document. It is anticipated that the EA/EIE will be completed and submitted to the FRA and FTA by the end of this year. If FRA and FTA conclude that there are no significant adverse impacts resulting from proposed improvements or that these impacts can be adequately mitigated, a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued, authorizing the project to advance to final design and construction.



### Federal and State Review

A joint Federal Environmental Assessment/State Environmental Impact Evaluation (EA/EIE) will document the environmental review to comply with both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

#### THE EA/EIE WILL:

- ▶ Describe the purpose and need for the proposed improvements,
- ▶ Identify goals and quantify benefits related to the proposed rail service, such as train operations, frequency of service, station locations and station requirements,
- ▶ Identify alternatives that were considered, including “no action”,
- ▶ Quantify the environmental impacts (both positive and negative) that are associated with the proposed improvements, and
- ▶ Include mitigation measures that address any adverse impacts resulting from implementation of the program.