

NEW HAVEN – HARTFORD – SPRINGFIELD RAIL PROGRAM



May 2012 Factsheet

www.nhhsrail.com



Environmental Assessment

On May 8, 2012 the Connecticut Department of Transportation published a joint Federal Environmental Assessment/State Environmental Impact Evaluation (EA/EIE) of the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield (NHHS) Rail Program.

The EA/EIE documents the proposed improvements, potential impacts and mitigation along the NHHS rail corridor. Potential impacts to a full range of environmental resources were studied including traffic, noise, air quality, water quality, wetlands, and historical and cultural resources. The EA/EIE:

- ▶ describes the Purpose and Need for the proposed improvements,
- ▶ identifies goals and quantifies benefits of the proposed rail service,
- ▶ identifies alternatives that were considered, including “No Build”,
- ▶ quantifies the environmental impacts (both positive and negative) associated with the proposed improvements, and
- ▶ includes mitigation measures that address adverse impacts resulting from implementation of the program.

Prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA), the EA/EIE provides 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) along with concurrence from the Connecticut Office of Policy & Management, is a critical step in obligating the funding that has already been awarded to Connecticut under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and advancing the NHHS Rail Program.

A major objective of the NEPA/CEPA process is to provide the public with information about the proposed project and a forum for commenting on the project and its impacts. A 45-day public comment period began May 8th, with the publication of the EA/EIE. During this period, CTDOT and FRA will hold formal public hearings to present the detailed findings of the EA/EIE and solicit public comment. Comments may be submitted in writing, at public hearings or on the NHHS website (see *Review the EA/EIE*). All comments received during the comment period will be addressed in the Final EA/EIE document. If FRA concludes 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.

Review the EA/EIE

The EA/EIE is available for review at the Town or City Clerk’s Office and libraries of communities along the rail corridor and on the project website: www.nhhsrail.com.

Comments can be submitted on the website, at public hearings, or in writing.

Please submit written comments to:

Mark W. Alexander
Transportation Assistant Planning
Director, CTDOT
PO Box 06131-7546
2800 Berlin Turnpike
Newington, CT 06131-7546

Attend Public Hearings

The study team will be available at each hearing from 6:00 PM—7:00 PM to discuss the proposed improvements prior to the formal hearing.

NEW BRITAIN

June 7, 2012
7:00 PM
Torp Theatre, Davidson Hall
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street

ENFIELD

June 13, 2012
7:00 PM
Asnuntuck Community College
170 Elm Street

NORTH HAVEN

June 14, 2012
7:00 PM
North Haven High School
221 Elm Street