Train stations often provide the first view a passenger sees of a community – they serve as the window through which travelers assess whether they might like to live, work or shop there. If that view is positive, passengers and visitors can support vibrant new economic development around a station. On the NHHS rail line, new train stations will be constructed to showcase all that our communities have to offer. In the process, we will provide travelers with easy, safe and convenient access to the trains and communities they serve.

Planned Station Improvements

Improvements at stations are needed to provide access to platforms and trains. New high-level platforms – built at the same height as the floors of the trains – will provide level boarding and full accessibility for passengers with disabilities, strollers or luggage. A pedestrian bridge over the tracks, complete with stairs and an elevator, will provide access to the new high-level platforms from either side of the tracks. Additional parking, either surface parking or in decks, will ensure that there is convenient parking for passengers. Ticket vending machines for NHHS, Amtrak and other statewide transit services will provide the latest in technology. Security, safety and sustainability will be top priorities in the design and operation of the stations and parking facilities.

Opportunities for Transit-Oriented Development

One of the primary objectives of the NHHS program is to serve as a catalyst for transit-oriented development (TOD) around the stations. CTDOT is proactively working with towns to help leverage the investment in railroad infrastructure to capture local development benefits. TOD, in the form of compact, mixed-use districts, is pedestrian-friendly and contributes to vibrant and active communities. By promoting the use of transit, TOD also reduces reliance on automobiles, resulting in energy cost savings and improves air quality.

Integrating Station and Community Planning

CTDOT is proactively meeting with public officials in NHHS communities to coordinate station planning with each town’s plans for development of station areas. Initial meetings held this spring identified station footprints and preliminary concepts for station areas. This fall, CTDOT will meet again with each town as more detailed station concepts are developed to support TOD.