

New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority

New Hampshire Department of Transportation, PO Box 483, Concord, NH 03302



January 31, 2014

Paul Nelson
Manager of Corridor Planning
MassDOT--Office of Transportation Planning
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160
Boston, MA 02116

Re: Claremont, NH Station Stop

To Whom It May Concern:

The NH Rail Transit Authority was established to develop and provide commuter and passenger rail and related public rail transportation services in New Hampshire. Since its creation in 2007, it has been working diligently to assist in developing a truly multimodal transportation system in New Hampshire. Our goals are to develop and implement comprehensive, coordinated and prioritized project and funding plans for passenger rail services that enhance transportation options and provide New Hampshire citizens:

1. Commuter rail services to in state and out of state employment centers,
2. Tourist services to recreation areas,
3. Easy access to regional inter-city passenger rail services and other multi-modal transportation systems.

The Authority feels that this passenger rail proposal will further our goals.

At our meeting of January 24, 2014, the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority voted to urge the Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative to include the feasibility for the continuance of the rail passenger stop in Claremont, New Hampshire as part of its study of the proposed Boston-to-Montreal high speed rail route. The Authority strongly supports evaluating this stop on the same basis as the Initiative is using to examine other proposed passenger stops on this route. The Authority asks that the Initiative bear in mind that:

1. The distance between Claremont and the nearest stops in the study (i.e. White River Junction and Brattleboro, Vermont) is greater than the distance between some pairs of mutually adjacent passenger stops already proposed for study;
2. A passenger stop in Claremont will provide rail service not only to the population of Claremont itself but also to the approximately 40,000 residents of the surrounding region, which includes such populated places as Springfield and Windsor, Vermont; and

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3. Rail connection through to Montreal is particularly likely to generate potential ridership from the Claremont area because of that area's strong social and economic relationships with the Province of Quebec.
4. The combination of the Boston-Montreal and Vermonter services will:
 - a. provide enhanced transportation options for the residents of the region;
 - b. encourage economic revitalization and job creation; and
 - c. enhance tourism.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail tjmahon@comcast.net or phone 603-494-2579.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Mahon
Chairman

Cc: Rep. Raymond Gagnon
Christine Frost, Exec. Dir., Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee RPC
Patrick Herlihy, NHDOT
Brian Searles, Vt. Agency of Transportation
Governor Margaret Hassan
Sen. Jim Rausch
Sen. Peggy Gilmore
Rep. Candace Bouchard
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Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Senator Kelly Ayotte
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Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter
Tom Irwin, Conservation Law Foundation