



Dannel P. Malloy

GOVERNOR
STATE OF CONNECTICUT

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Charles D. Baker
Governor
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Governor Baker:

Massachusetts and Connecticut share more than a border. We share a workforce, an economic region, many of the same challenges and, of course, the same values and history that make us New Englanders. That's why I write to strongly encourage you to include the expansion of intercity passenger rail service from Hartford and Springfield on the Knowledge Corridor via Worcester to Boston South Station in the Massachusetts State Rail Plan. Improved transportation connections will only strengthen our communities and increase economic growth significantly.

The inclusion of intercity passenger rail that links western and southern New England with Boston will undoubtedly generate new opportunities for western Massachusetts. With a population of 1.8 million in the Hartford Springfield metropolitan area, the region will be linked with frequent service to New Haven and New York City in 2018. This inland route complements and strengthens a much needed passenger rail service expansion. It would be a boon to the entire region to have access to Boston and Worcester on the other end.

As it is recommended in the Northern New England Intercity Rail Initiative (NNEIRI) final report, I strongly encourage Massachusetts to advance the planning and engineering of the Inland Route service from Boston to Springfield and south to Connecticut. That study recommended eight (8) daily roundtrips in the corridor. Among other benefits, the Inland Route would provide critical connections for the major population centers of the Knowledge Corridor to Hartford and New Haven and New York City, and frequent and reliable service to Boston.

It is my hope that Massachusetts will consider adding this vital link for the Knowledge Corridor to your state rail plan. The benefits will be significant to Worcester and west.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dannel P. Malloy".

Dannel P. Malloy