

Investing in Transportation Infrastructure to Accelerate Economic Growth

Economic Impact of Hartford Springfield Boston Rail Service

Thursday, November 18, 2021, 12:00pm-1:30pm via webinar

The transcontinental railroad and the US interstate highway system are two examples of transportation investments that yielded massive economic benefits. Recently the Capital Region Council of Governments and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission commissioned a study to look at the economic impact of restoring regular passenger rail service from Hartford to Springfield to Boston. The bottom line is that for a six to eight billion dollar investment, the payback over 30 years would be nine to ten times that investment and yield growth that the region has missed over the past decades.

Welcome

Lyle Wray, Executive Director Emeritus, Capitol Region Council of Governments

Mohamad Alkadry, Head, UConn Department of Public Policy

Pre-recorded Remarks

Congressman John Larson, First District, CT

Moderator

James Redeker, FHI Studio and former Commissioner of CT DOT

Presenters

Steve Gazillo and Team, AECOM authors of economic impact study on Boston rail

Dan Hodge, Executive Vice President, Cambridge Econometrics, Inc.

Panelists

Mayor Luke Bronin, City of Hartford

Kim Robinson Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

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Webinar link will be sent upon registration

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Lyle Wray, Executive Director Emeritus, Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG)

Dr. Wray has served as Executive Director of CRCOG in Hartford since 2004. Previously he served in the Minnesota area as Executive Director of the Ventura County Civic Alliance, Executive Director of the Citizens League, and Dakota County Administrator & HR Director in The Twin Cities.

Originally from Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, Lyle earned a doctorate in psychology from the University of Manitoba. He has had a variety of international teaching & consulting experiences in e-government, performance measurement, civil society and human resources. He co-authored *Results That Matter*, published by J. Wiley in 2006. He was elected as a fellow of the [National Academy of Public Administration](#) in 2015. and was elected President of the [Community Indicators Consortium](#) in 2017.



Dr. Mohamad Alkadry, Department Head and Professor, UConn Department of Public Policy

Mohamad G. Alkadry serves as a Professor and Head of the [Department of Public Policy](#) at the University of Connecticut. He previously held academic and administrative appointments, and was tenured at Florida International University in Miami, FL, West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV, and Old Dominion University in Norfolk, VA.

Dr. Alkadry has over 50 peer-reviewed articles, peer-reviewed book chapters, and journal symposia. He is also co-editor and co-author of three books: *Women and Public Service: Barriers, Challenges and Opportunities* (2013, 2014), *These Things Happen: Stories from the Public Sector* (2002), and *Scaling Up Microenterprise Services* (1998) Dr. Alkadry has authored in excess of fifty community and professional studies in areas of governance and public management.

Alkadry earned his B.A. from Carleton University, his M.P.P.P.A. from Concordia University, and his Ph.D. from Florida Atlantic University.



Congressman John B. Larson, First District, CT

Congressman John B. Larson proudly represents **Connecticut's First District**. Now in his twelfth term, John sits on the influential House Ways and Means Committee—including the Subcommittee on Tax Policy and the Social Security Subcommittee, where he serves as the Chairman. Throughout his time in Congress, John has proven himself a staunch advocate for Connecticut's working families, our manufacturing and small business ecosystem, and commonsense solutions for the problems Americans face everyday.

Born and raised in the federal housing project of Mayberry Village in East Hartford, John is fond of saying he is the product of public housing, public education, and public service. His father, Raymond, worked for Pratt & Whitney, while his mother, Pauline, served on the Town Council. John graduated from East Hartford High School in 1967 and from Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) in 1971.



Moderator, James Redeker, FHI Studio and former Commissioner of CT DOT

Dan Hodge is Executive Vice President at Cambridge Econometrics. He has worked for over 25 years as an applied economist focused on assessing local, regional, and state economies in terms of economic impacts, competitiveness, strategic plans, and infrastructure investments. Dan has worked extensively on rail projects, planning, and economic analysis, including the Massachusetts state rail plan, the Knowledge Corridor passenger rail feasibility study, and multiple iterations of east-west rail and Inland Route rail studies. Dan holds master's

degrees in applied economics and public policy from the University of Michigan.



Steve Gazillo, AICP—Vice President, Transportation Planning

Stephen Gazillo is AECOM's transportation planning lead for New England. He has more than 35 years of transportation planning experience and specializes in rail and transit planning-related projects. Currently, he is part of the rail consultant team assisting the Connecticut Department of Transportation in strategic planning efforts to improve passenger rail service in the state. He is a certified planner with the American Planning Association, and has an MBA degree from the Isenberg School of Management at UMass Amherst and a Master's in Geography and Planning from Laval University.



Chris Brewer, Vice President , Economics + Advisory, AECOM

Chris has 25 years of experience evaluating planning, zoning, market, financial and policy aspects of real estate development. His practice has focused on reuse of urban brownfield sites and closed military bases, evaluations of downtown retail and apartment markets, financial analysis of adaptive reuse projects, and assessment of TOD strategies. Chris’ consulting projects have always started with the quantitative basics, review of demographic and economic indicators, freight transportation metrics, and real estate market data to place a project or location in context. These tools are used in support of market and financial studies, economic & fiscal impact analyses, and environmental/socioeconomic impact assessments



Jessica Jones - Senior Analyst, Economics + Advisory, AECOM

Jessica Jones is a Senior Analyst with AECOM’s Economics and Advisory practice. She specializes in assessing the economic, policy, and equity impacts of urbanization. She works with diverse cities and regions to plan for investments in transportation, public infrastructure, and commercial revitalization – as well as developing comprehensive strategies for economic resilience. Prior to joining AECOM, she served as a Policy Fellow in the City of Chicago Mayor’s Office. Jessica has a Master’s in Urban Planning & Policy from the University of

Illinois-Chicago.



Dan Hodge, Executive Vice President, Cambridge Econometrics, Inc.

Dan Hodge has worked for over 25 years as an applied economist and economic development consultant focused on assessing local, regional, state, and multi-state economies in terms of economic impacts, competitiveness, target industries, strategic plans, and infrastructure investments. He works closely with public sector, non-profit, and private sector clients to interpret and formulate input from a range of stakeholders into a logical, compelling set of issues, opportunities, goals, and policy recommendations. Dan has worked extensively on rail projects, planning, and economic analysis, including the Massachusetts state rail plan, the Knowledge Corridor passenger rail feasibility study, and multiple iterations of east-west rail and Inland Route rail studies. Dan holds masters degrees in applied economics and public policy from the University of Michigan.



Luke Bronin, Mayor, City of Hartford

Luke Bronin was sworn in as the 67th mayor of the City of Hartford on January 1, 2016. Mayor Bronin is a husband, a father, a veteran, and an attorney, and he is committed to building a stronger Hartford for all of the city’s residents. He has focused on confronting the city’s fiscal crisis directly and honestly, engaging young in partnership with community organizations, and working to draw investment to the City.

Prior to becoming mayor, Luke had the opportunity to serve in senior positions in both federal and state governments. In 2013, he was appointed by then-Connecticut Governor Dannel P. Malloy to serve as General Counsel. In his position as the governor’s chief lawyer, Bronin partnered with legislators and state agency officials to advance the Governor’s agenda, and he was deeply involved in developing policies to combat veterans’ homelessness, expand economic opportunities, reform our criminal justice system, and protect our environment.

Mayor Bronin earned his B.A. and J.D. from Yale University and his M.A. from Oxford University, where he studied as a Rhodes Scholar.



Kim Robinson, Executive Director, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

Kim Robinson has been the Executive Director of the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVP) in Springfield, MA since October, 2019. Prior to that she was Executive Director of the Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency in Reno, NV. Kim is recognized for her ability to successfully manage complex projects, programs and operations; communicate forthrightly yet effectively and navigate sensitive political relationships; facilitate consensus and commitment among competing stakeholders; and lead diverse teams to success.

PVPC is a regional planning agency for the 43 cities and towns in Hampshire and Hampden counties. She is committed to leading the next chapter in its long history of improving Pioneer Valley residents’ quality of life, as well as building on the partnerships the agency has cultivated with its 43 member communities to help them succeed, from basic government service delivery to big-picture regional visioning.

Kim received a BS in Honors Program /Hotel Administration from University of Nevada, Las Vegas and a Master of Urban Planning from The University of Michigan.