

SouthCoast Rail Extension Talking Points

The SouthCoast Rail Project will restore passenger rail transportation from South Station in Boston to the cities of Fall River and New Bedford along an existing freight rail corridor running south from Taunton to Fall River and New Bedford. The project will include construction of several passenger stations and two terminal layover facilities.

- The potential impact of the reintroduction of passenger rail on the SouthCoast has been studied for more than a decade as part of local, regional, and statewide planning efforts and many potential benefits have been identified.
- The SouthCoast is one of the fastest growing areas in the state, home to growing communities for which improved transportation access could be a vehicle for economic development and job creation.
- The cities of Fall River and New Bedford are some of the largest municipalities within a 50-mile radius of Boston without rail transit service, service that will provide a much needed link between job opportunities and affordable housing for the residents of the state.
- The existing highway network connecting the SouthCoast region to the Boston area is inadequate for the needs of today, causing traffic congestion, safety concerns, and air quality degradation, with expectations for even greater congestion in the future. SouthCoast rail extension could help to mitigate traffic growth in the region.
- Commuter Rail Service strengthens the SouthCoast's economic links to Boston and other satellite urban centers within the metro region.
- Commuter rail access expands the SouthCoast's potential labor market and is particularly attractive to high-end management and professional employees. As a result, commuter rail service makes the SouthCoast more attractive to Fortune 500 businesses and other large employers.
- Commuter rail access has been a key factor in major development and redevelopment projects across the country.
- Commuter rail has consistently led to increased property values in areas surrounding train stations nationally and internationally.
- Commuter rail could aid the growing tourism industry in the SouthCoast by providing visitors to the state with another means of transportation to experience the SouthCoast's many natural resources, cultural institutions and other amenities.