

COMMUTER RAIL COMMUNITIES COALITION

Considerations for Priorities

Adopted as amended March 11, 2019

Coalition priorities for the near term (next two to three years):

1. Advocate for transformative change of the rail system, including electrification, through the MBTA's Rail Vision study and the MBTA Advisory Board, to provide input into the terms of the MBTA's next commuter rail operating contract to begin in 2020, and to support the long-term modernization of Massachusetts' transportation network.
2. Advocate for additional funding for the commuter rail system, as well as the broader regional transit system, which provides critical connections to and from commuter rail.
3. Advocate for a rail system that is resilient to climate change, and that supports Massachusetts' climate goals for a reduction in transportation greenhouse gas emissions.
4. Through coordination with the MBTA, learn best practices from other successful commuter and regional rail services around the globe and determine where these practices could be applied by state and local entities to help transform our rail system.
5. Support and advocate for innovative first- and-last mile connections to commuter rail, including connections for reverse commuters and intra-corridor trips via partnerships with bicycle share and micro-mobility providers, Regional Transit Authorities, municipal transportation services, water transportation, and Transportation Management Associations.
6. Share guidance on how municipalities can form partnerships with the MBTA to make rail service more successful, combining municipal and MBTA resources, and develop pilot projects for improving mobility and connectivity, including parking partnerships or agreements to expand access to stations.
7. Share best-practices for equitable transit-oriented development (E TOD) around commuter rail stations, and support implementation of MBTA adopted TOD polices.
8. Develop talking points on the importance of the rail system, including facts on ridership, passenger miles, economic impact of the rail network, and other important metrics.
9. Consider what additional commuter rail data could be useful in evaluating the system and potential improvements, and advocate for any needed data collection and analysis.
10. Consider best-practices to help solve capacity constraints and service issues for commuter rail, such as car and bicycle parking, frequency of service, late night service, reverse commute, and other issues.
11. Participate in, and advocate for station accessibility improvements as a priority for the next capital investment plan.
12. Advocate for commuter rail passengers in fare policies and practices, such as AFC 2.0, and support innovative proposals such as reduced weekend fares.