East-West Passenger Rail Study
Study Advisory Committee Meeting #1
December 18, 2018, 1 – 3pm

AGENDA

Meeting Objective: To develop a common understanding of the purpose of the committee, the study scope, and process; preview initial groundwork for context analysis; and provide input on the study goals and objectives to help inform the development and evaluation of alternatives.

1:00  Introductions
Focus Question: What is the one most important outcome you would hope to achieve from an East-West passenger rail service?

1:20  Study and Committee Overview
Study Purpose: Conduct an evaluation of the benefits, costs, and impacts of a range of alternatives for rail service between Boston and Pittsfield

Study Tasks:
- Assess context
- Identify and analyze up to six alternatives
- Develop framework for next steps

1:30  Preview of Study Context
Related Planning and Infrastructure Projects
Market Analysis
Conditions Assessment
Case Studies

2:00  Goals Exercise & Discussion

Potential Goals for Service Alternatives:
- Improve attractiveness of Western MA as an affordable place to live
- Enhance competitiveness for attracting new jobs and employers
- Improve mobility for transit-dependent populations
- Support economic development for Western MA businesses
- Reduce the number of automobile trips along the corridor
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air quality impacts from transportation

2:20  Identifying & Analyzing Alternatives
Scope of Service Alternatives
Context for Service Alternatives
Alternatives Analysis Process

2:40  Next Steps

2:50  Public Comment