

NORTH-SOUTH RAIL LINK

The North-South Rail Link is a proposed pair of 1.5 mile-long tunnels that would connect the MBTA's North Station and South Station. The Massachusetts Sierra Club has been a strong advocate for construction of a direct link between these two stations for many years. The North-South Rail Link will also support statewide and regional rail integration and cooperation with current extension plans in New Hampshire, Maine and Vermont.

As former Governors Weld and Dukakis put it in an August 2015 Boston Globe op-ed, "Permitting this one-mile gap to continue — more than 100 years after a legislative commission first proposed that the two stations be connected — isn't worthy of a state whose rail and transit system should be the best in the nation."

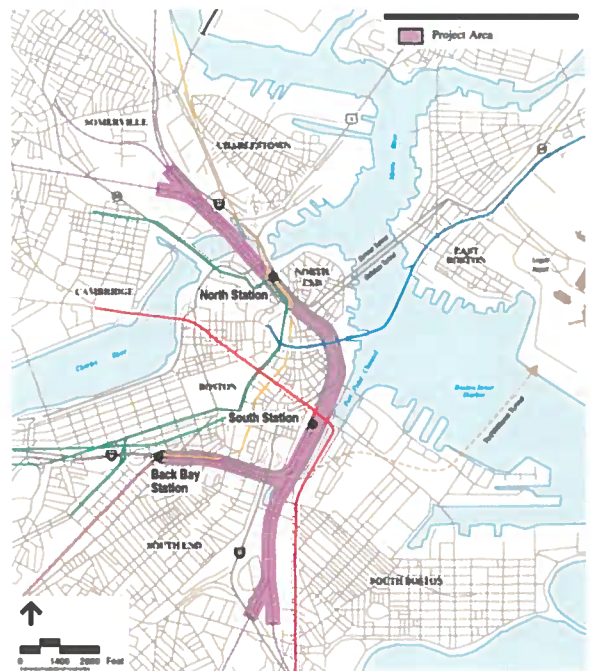
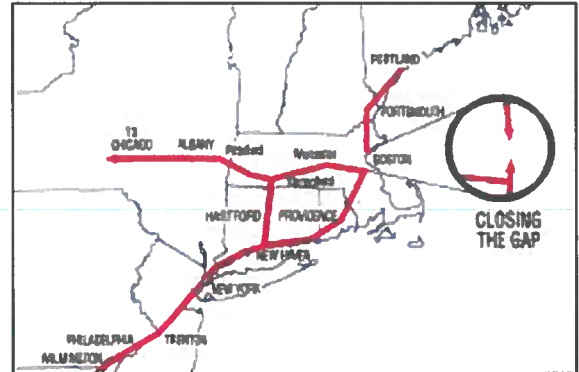
A first step is to build underground station platforms at South Station as Phase 1 of the North-South Rail Link, thereby accommodating service on Amtrak's electrified Northeast Corridor while allowing the tracks to be extended north at a later date.

According to the Rail Link's 2003 Draft Environmental Report/Major Investment Study, the Rail Link would result in over 55,000 auto trips diverted daily onto public transportation (pages ES-33 and ES-34). An expanded South Station with a connection to North Station is the optimal path forward for traveler mobility and reduced greenhouse gases.

Environmental benefits

Over a third of Massachusetts' greenhouse gas emissions come from the transportation sector, and that proportion is growing. We simply will not meet our greenhouse gas reduction goals without aggressive action in this sector.

Our stub-end terminals require every train to back out of our downtown stations before another can enter. With the North-South Rail Link, commuter and Amtrak trains running through instead of standing by will greatly reduce air and noise pollution from idling diesel locomotives and eliminate congestion caused by wasteful backup moves.



For more information contact:

Massachusetts Sierra Club North South Rail Link subcommittee

Chair, John Kyper (jkyper47@gmail.com)

Citizens for the North South Rail Link (volunteer organization brought together by former Governors Michael Dukakis and William Weld, and a coalition of advocates from across the region)

<http://www.northsouthrailink.org>



50 Federal Street, 3rd Floor • (617) 423-5755 • www.sierraclub.org/massachusetts