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**MAINE PASSENGER TRAINS: THE NEXT STEP**  
**Restoration of Passenger Rail Service from Portland to Lewiston**

Passenger rail service between Portland and downtown Lewiston will connect Maine's two largest and most densely populated metro areas.

As demonstrated by the impressive economic development around the Amtrak station in Brunswick and other stations, passenger rail can be a major catalyst for economic growth and re-development. And by giving Mainers an energy-efficient transportation choice to driving, passenger trains help to reduce traffic congestion and global warming and air pollution.

Three proposed bills in the 2015 Maine legislature would secure the necessary investments to provide passenger rail service between Portland to Lewiston:

**Investment in Key Infrastructure**

LD 438: An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Invest in Maine's Rail Infrastructure and Expand Passenger Rail Service. (Sponsor: Sen. Nate Libby of Auburn)

- This bill is a \$25 million bond including \$13 million to improvements on passenger railroad lines between Portland, Lewiston and Auburn and an additional \$12 million to be invested in Maine Department of Transportation railways statewide.
- Included is the \$8 million needed to construct a 4-mile long siding at Royal Junction in North Yarmouth on the Amtrak Downeaster route between Portland and Brunswick. This investment will allow for more service to Brunswick, increasing the safety for shared freight and passenger on this route, while setting the stage for rail service between Portland and the Lewiston/Auburn area.

**Finalizing Engineering Design and Environmental Assessments** LD 323: "An Act To Provide Funding to the Department of Transportation To Complete the Assessment for the Completion of the State-owned St. Lawrence and Atlantic Railroad Line" (Sponsor: Rep. Jared Golden of Lewiston).

This bill would fund the completion of the engineering and environmental work on the route from Portland to Lewiston/Auburn.

**Innovative Funding Mechanisms at the Local Level**

LD 247: "An Act To Create Corridor Districts for the Purpose of Funding Transportation and Transit Services" (Sponsor: Rep. Ben Chipman of Portland). This bill gives local communities additional tools to fund local transportation needs including rail.

**Building on Success**

The Amtrak Downeaster passenger rail service has grown to almost 600,000 riders in 2014. The towns served by the Downeaster have realized hundreds of millions of dollars in private investment and significant economic benefits, jobs and local investment.

Expanding passenger rail service from Portland to the Lewiston/Auburn area will spark much-needed re-development in town centers along the route while connecting these communities to the job markets of Boston and Portland. With the resource of hundreds of miles of Maine-owned railways connected to town centers across the state, this smart public investment offers an opportunity to move Maine forward.

**For more information, please contact:**

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