

Success Stories in Rail Investment

Amtrak Downeaster ME, NH, MA

The Amtrak Downeaster line spans three states (ME, NH, MA) and 12 stations serve communities on a 143-mile, shared-use corridor <http://www.amtrakdowneaster.com/> between Boston, MA and Brunswick, ME. Ten trains run daily along 106 miles of Pan Am Railways and 36 miles of MBTA track.

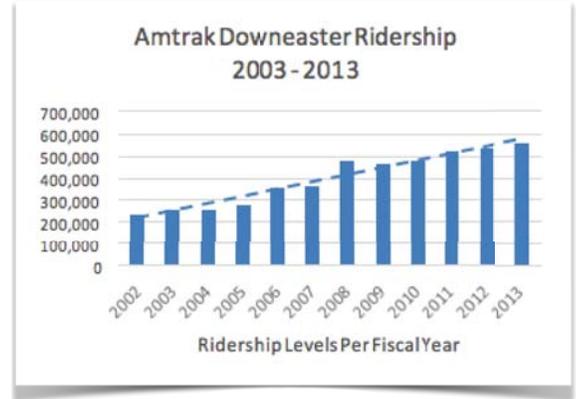
Public and private investment has been key to the Downeaster's success. Federal grants, private investment, and community support have made the Downeaster a national success story for high performance passenger rail service. Improvements to the Downeaster have had a positive effect on transportation in the New England region, with ridership more than doubling from 260,000 riders in 2003 to over 550,000 in 2013. Nearly 1 million people live in towns directly on the line, with an additional 3 million living in counties served by the route. Overall, the Downeaster contributes an estimated \$12m annually to Maine's economy and has stimulated over \$450m in public-private development projects along the line.

Amtrak operates the passenger train service and the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) develops, plans for, and manages the service. The Downeaster has one of the highest customer satisfaction index scores in the Amtrak system.



PARTNERS

- Capital: FRA, Maine DOT, FTA
- Operating: NNEPRA, Amtrak, Drummac Inc., MBTA, Pan Am Railways, TrainRiders/Northeast, Epicurian Feast



RESULTS

Increased Ridership & Economic Development

With ridership increasing every year, investments in the Amtrak Downeaster are paying off. Since 2001, 4.5 million people have traveled 367 million passenger miles, generating nearly \$64m in ticket revenues. In 2013, over 550,000 riders enjoyed the Downeaster service.

Economic Development on the Line

- \$30m private investment at Brunswick and Freeport for retail and commercial development to support expanded service
- \$22m residential and retail complex at Old Orchard Beach
- \$150m for walkable living/mill renovations at Biddeford-Saco
- \$100m mixed use development at Thompson's Point, adjacent to Portland Station
- By 2030, there is projected to be \$7.2b in new development along the Downeaster corridor with 10,000 new jobs created and \$75m generated in annual tax revenues



FUNDING

\$60m for rehabilitation to initiate service:

- \$38.5m for capital improvements from ARRA High Speed Rail Grant
- \$20.8m TIGER grant, with \$5.2m match from MBTA, for track infrastructure improvements on the MBTA portion of the line
- \$500k ARRA funds with a \$250k match from Maine to complete the Downeaster Service Development Plan

For more information, visit www.amtrakdowneaster.com