



Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce

TIME TO ACT: Senate Transportation Committee to Hear Public Testimony Tuesday- The Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan

Tomorrow afternoon, the Senate Transportation Committee will welcome public testimony on House Bill 2018, the Ten Year Transportation Improvement Plan, which includes \$4 million to enable an in-depth analysis of the expansion of passenger rail from Boston to Manchester.

Here's why we believe this Project Development analysis is so critical:

- * NH is aging - we're now the 4th oldest state in the country, which means a smaller workforce as workers retire and increased the pressure as businesses look to hire and retain employees in the years to come.
- * When we look at where those prospective employees are, often to our south in MA, it's clear that reliable, low-traffic-impact transportation is needed to get them to our businesses and our jobs.
- * As we look at the employees we want to attract, public transportation is one of the most important factors to them. In fact, people under 30 are far more likely to ride public transportation and to express positive feelings about it than older people, regardless of what part of the country they live in or what kind of neighborhood they grew up in.

Project Development analysis will provide policymakers with critical information so when they make a final decision on whether rail makes sense for New Hampshire, it will be an informed decision. House Bill 2018 allocates \$4 million in federal funding for the analysis, at zero cost to NH taxpayers. Approving the Project Development funding in House Bill 2018 would not compel NH to proceed with building rail, it will just make sure we know what we need to know.

We're not alone in our support for this. In fact, 74% of NH voters, including more than 125 statewide businesses, support rail expansion.

ACTION ITEMS: What can you do?

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* Please [EMAIL THE COMMITTEE CHAIR TODAY](#) and encourage Senator Birdsell and her Committee members to support Project Development analysis funding for rail expansion.

* Also, please consider attending the Committee Hearing tomorrow, **Tuesday, April 10, at 1:30PM in Room 103 of the Legislative Office Building, located at 33 North State Street in Concord.** You can sign in to provide oral testimony, you can provide just written testimony as a letter of support, or you can simply sign in in support.

This is an important issue for New Hampshire and our future. Investing in our future is important - and it's important that we invest wisely. HB 2018 will allow us to get the analysis we need to make sure we're doing just that.

Please contact Chamber President and CEO Tracy Hatch (thatch@nashuachamber.com or (603) 881-8333 ext. 222) for more information and to get the meeting schedule.

Tracy Hatch
President & CEO
Greater Nashua Chamber of Commerce

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