

# A Vision of Future Transportation Along the Connecticut River Valley



*Connecticut River, CT*



*Holyoke, MA*

**Imagine** leaving your car at home as you travel by train along the Connecticut River Valley corridor from town to town and city to city. Envision multi-modal rail stations surrounded by a healthy mix of stores and residences in communities from New Haven, CT to northern Vermont, with easy connections to major destinations, such as Bradley International Airport.

This is the vision of many of the communities and regional planning organizations along the Connecticut River Valley corridor. These communities want to improve the region's quality of life and decrease greenhouse gas emissions by reducing car and truck trips along the corridor. In order to come to fruition, the vision requires immediate support and investment.



*Greenfield, MA*

Working with ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, communities and regional planning organizations in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont developed a vision to involve more communities along the corridor in the transportation projects (listed on the back of this page), and are actively involving and educating state and other decision-makers about the region's desire. To help ensure the successful integration of rail into the future of the corridor, the shared vision should be integrated into existing long term local and regional comprehensive land use and transportation plans.



Greenfield, MA



Brattleboro, VT



Northampton, MA

### *Some Specifics*

By the year 2020, the communities and regional planning organizations identified several projects that they would like to see completed or underway.

Rail projects include:

- Frequent passenger rail service along the Connecticut River Valley corridor
- Re-alignment of the rail corridor to bypass the Palmer detour
- Bus connections to and from areas throughout the communities along the corridor and nearby major destinations, including Bradley International Airport
- Increased freight rail service to industry and businesses

Stations:

- Are multi-modal transportation centers served by bus and train
- Have bicycle and pedestrian connections to surrounding areas

Communities with stations:

- Transit oriented development – a dense mix of stores, jobs, and residences – is encouraged in the area surrounding the station
- Denser residential and/or employment areas in the community are planned where bus connections to stations are desired
- Smart growth principles are employed where possible

### *For More Information*

For inquiries or to receive more information about the Transportation and Climate Change project, please send an email to ICLEI's staff lead, Ben Rasmussen, at [ben.rasmussen@iclei.org](mailto:ben.rasmussen@iclei.org) or call 617-850-9042.



Map based on image from Hartford-Springfield Economic Partnership