



City of Pawtucket Mayor's Office



City of Central Falls Mayor's Office

February 4, 2016

Rebecca Reyes-Alicea
Northeast Corridor Future
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
One Bowling Green, Suite 429
New York, NY 10004

SUBJECT: Tier 1 Draft EIS – Alternatives Report

Dear Ms. Reyes-Alicea:

We are writing with respect to the recent Tier 1 Draft EIS Alternatives Report for the Northeast Corridor Future.

As the Mayors of the City of Pawtucket (population 71,246) and Central Falls, RI (population 19,328) and representing a community that has invested a substantial amount of time, energy and resources in efforts to establish a commuter rail station on the NEC, we would ask that the following comments be taken into consideration:

- Table 7 NEC Population Forecasts does not accurately reflect the Providence MSA catchment area, which has a population of 1,609,000 (2014 U.S. Census).
- Table 8 NEC Employment Forecasts does not square with the November 2015 Bureau of Labor Statistics for the Providence MSA, which has the Providence MSA at 649,000 jobs.
- Providence, and by extension Pawtucket and Central Falls, should be, for the population and employment levels to be served, the preferred high-speed route for the Northeast Corridor Future Rail Investment.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Donald R. Grebien
Mayor, City of Pawtucket

James A. Dlossa
Mayor, City of Central Falls

CC: Steve Devine, Rhode Island Department of Transportation