

## **Commuter Rail: At What Cost to the Taxpayers and the Environment?**

Not only would commuter rail likely cost NH a **SALES and INCOME TAX** due to its financial unviability, due to lack of ridership beyond 1/10th of 1% as reported by the NH DOT it would also fail to mitigate traffic on major highways. There would also be costs in terms of the environment.

The MBTA wants to build an overnight storage yard in NH. Why? **Because MA has stricter anti-pollution laws than NH.**

**Did you know the plan is to store overnight trains in NH? Do you have any idea how much pollution idling locomotives generate? Do you know they idle locomotives all night? Did you know MBTA tried once to build an overnight storage facility in Plaistow? Do you know how that turned out?"**

**The proposal to build such a facility in Plaistow a few years ago caused such a public outcry that a local vote killed it. Sununu was on the Executive Council at the time and this is what he said about it:**

Republican Councilor Chris Sununu, whose district includes Plaistow, has supported the study, but on Tuesday said the project is too unpopular locally to proceed, citing numerous calls from constituents.

*"The problem is having folks unanimously against this in Plaistow," he said. "The only person I can find in the town who wants this to go forward is the town manager himself, and he is the one seeking the extension."*

Apparently back then, Sununu knew this project was a 'boondoggle' (yes he actually called it that) and he said he supported local control.

[https://www.eagletribune.com/news/new\\_hampshire/plaistow-voters-oppose-mbta-plan/article\\_f8f00834-46a4-5b86-87ac-e14e3104f6d4.html](https://www.eagletribune.com/news/new_hampshire/plaistow-voters-oppose-mbta-plan/article_f8f00834-46a4-5b86-87ac-e14e3104f6d4.html)

[https://www.eagletribune.com/news/merrimack\\_valley/plaistow-residents-derailed-mbta-project/article\\_0a0aaeaf-8c04-5071-9262-569f06c7524b.html](https://www.eagletribune.com/news/merrimack_valley/plaistow-residents-derailed-mbta-project/article_0a0aaeaf-8c04-5071-9262-569f06c7524b.html)

Residents of Maine opposed the multimillion dollar "shed" NNEPRA built in Brunswick. The opposition organized by the Brunswick Neighborhood Group was based largely on neighborhood noise and pollution. The group remains opposed on environmental grounds (emissions, noise, light and possible impact on property values) to locating the Downeaster Maintenance Facility between Church and Stanwood Streets.

Many still do not understand the pollution, noise and congestion these sites would bring with them.

**From the EDF is "Smokestacks on Rails":**

[https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/5736\\_SmokestacksOnRails.pdf](https://www.edf.org/sites/default/files/5736_SmokestacksOnRails.pdf)

**And excerpts from "Railway Ecology":**

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-319-57496-7>

*“The two most known disturbances of railways are the noise and vibrations caused by passing trains. However, railways are also responsible for a large amount of emissions that cover a wide range of pollutants and toxic substances that affect the atmosphere, soil and water worldwide (Plakhotnik et al. [2005](#)). Another impact resulting from the construction and establishment of the railways is soil erosion. Here, we describe the main railway disturbances that can potentially affect wildlife.”*

*“The main pollutants emitted from the diesel-powered locomotives are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), particulate matter (PM) and hydrocarbon (HC) (Plakhotnik et al. [2005](#); Cheng and Yan [2011](#)).”*

**Is this what we want in New Hampshire?**

**How will your neighborhood be impacted?**

Read the plans:

<https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/nashuamanchester40818/documents/40818-pre-06232021.pdf>

<https://www.nhbr.com/commuter-rail-station-options-presented-in-capitol-corridor-study/>

**Real Life Instances of Ecological Concerns**

<https://www.seacoastonline.com/news/20190921/portsmouth-residents-say-idling-trains-health-threat>

[https://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/schumer-corning-neighborhood-is-plagued-by-idling-trains-that-send-noxious-fumes-into-homes-and-leave-engines-droning-all-night\\_calls-on-norfolk-southern-to-find-non-residential-area-to-leave-trains-instead-of-parking-them-outside-peoples-homes-for-hours-on-end](https://www.schumer.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/schumer-corning-neighborhood-is-plagued-by-idling-trains-that-send-noxious-fumes-into-homes-and-leave-engines-droning-all-night_calls-on-norfolk-southern-to-find-non-residential-area-to-leave-trains-instead-of-parking-them-outside-peoples-homes-for-hours-on-end)

[https://www.eagletribune.com/news/haverhill/trains-still-idle-in-their-bradford-neighborhood-so-theyre-taking-their-complaints-to-the-governor/article\\_9a5dd116-e5b5-5601-8726-50013f018f16.html](https://www.eagletribune.com/news/haverhill/trains-still-idle-in-their-bradford-neighborhood-so-theyre-taking-their-complaints-to-the-governor/article_9a5dd116-e5b5-5601-8726-50013f018f16.html)

**Here are more facts on trains and whether trains actually reduce pollution:**

<http://bedfordresidents.com/bra/2020/05/06/trains-wont-reduce-atmospheric-carbon/>

**Again you have to ask, is this what we really want for New Hampshire?**