



## MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

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### **Mayor Touts 67% Increase in Amtrak Ridership along Northampton/Greenfield Corridor**

During his meeting with U.S. Senator Edward Markey earlier this week, Mayor David J. Narkewicz touted the success of Amtrak passenger rail service in Northampton since its return in January. The January 2015 transfer of the Amtrak Vermonter from Amherst to Northampton and Greenfield has resulted in a 67% increase in ridership, exceeding expectations and strengthening the case for expanded rail service in the Pioneer Valley or “Knowledge Corridor”.

#### **Amtrak Vermonter Ridership for Northampton and Greenfield**

<b>Town/City</b>	<b>2013/2014</b>	<b>Jan. to May 2014</b>	<b>January to May 2015</b>	<b>% Increase</b>	<b>2015 Annual Estimate</b>
Amherst		<b>5870</b>			
Northampton			<b>7014</b>		<b>15,000</b>
Greenfield			<b>2820</b>		<b>05,000</b>
<b>Total Ridership</b>		<b>5870</b>	<b>9834</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>20,000</b>
<b>Cape Cod Flyer Ridership</b>	<b>12,650 (’14)</b>				<b>15,000</b>
<b>Vermont Ridership</b>	<b>80 -82,000</b>				
<b>Springfield On/Offs</b>	<b>141,947</b>				
<b>Sources:</b> Cape Flyer Ridership: WBUR NPR Radio, May 21, 2015					
Amtrak Ridership: October, 2013 Amtrak Press Release “Amtrak Sets Ridership Record”					

From January through June 2015, total ridership was 9834 passengers (7014 at Northampton/ 2620 at Greenfield) versus Amherst ridership in 2014 at 5870.

“These ridership numbers are more than anyone predicted”, said Mayor David Narkewicz. “This high level of public participation only strengthens the case for expanding rail service in the region.” Mayor Narkewicz also highlighted several rail expansion developments both north and south of

Northampton :

### **Vermont Service to Montreal, Canada**

In June, 2015 Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin announced that Vermont had garnered an \$8 million federal grant to complete rail upgrades from St. Albans, Vermont to the Canadian border which will pave the way for rail service to Montreal.

### **Amtrak Vermont service in Holyoke**

Amtrak Vermont service to Holyoke will begin on August 27, 2015 following the completion of a new 400-foot rail platform on Main Street at the foot of Dwight Street. The partially covered high-level platform has parking for 20-25 cars and a circular drop-off and pick-up area.

### **Springfield to New Haven Commuter Rail**

In July 2015, Connecticut Governor Dannel Malloy announced that second track construction would be begin this month between Springfield and New Haven adding service of up to 17 trains per day starting in 2017.

Mayor Narkewicz noted, "It is interesting to compare projected 2015 annual ridership for Northampton and Greenfield of up to 20,000 passengers against the total Vermont rider ship of 84,000 and realize that we will be generating nearly 25% of total ridership. It is also noteworthy that Northampton's annual ridership will compare very well against the new seasonal passenger rail service from Boston to Cape Cod which carried 12,650 riders in 2014."

In addition to the planned expansion of Amtrak service to Montreal from St. Albans and the introduction of commuter rail service between Springfield to New Haven there are also hopes for eventual "east-west" rail between Springfield to Boston, as advocated by many regional leaders.

Mayor Narkewicz commented, "These ridership numbers along with the introduction of commuter rail to New Haven and possible expanded service to Montreal will improve our regional quality of life along with increasing economic drivers such as tourism and increasing the residential value of living in the Knowledge Corridor. There will also be increased values for the growth of rail freight as well."