

Alternatives Evaluation

The Project Team is evaluating each alternative using engineering and environmental criteria. The Preferred Alternative will be identified based on a **balance of benefits and consequences**.

Which alternative provides optimal rail services and minimizes environmental impacts?

What are your interests and considerations for the B&P Tunnel Project?

Project Team considerations highlighted to date:

- **Major Long-Term Rail Infrastructure Investment**
 - Existing Tunnel Condition
 - Proposed Improvement Life Span – 100+ years
- **FRA High Speed Rail Program**
 - Address the nation's transportation challenges by making strategic investments in an efficient network of passenger rail corridors that connect communities across the country
- **NEC FUTURE Program**
 - Improve the reliability, capacity, connectivity, performance, and resiliency of passenger rail service on the Northeast Corridor (NEC) for both intercity and regional trips
- **Congressional Mandate for Amtrak to reduce travel time along the Northeast Corridor**
(Section 212(d) of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 Public Law 110-432)
 - *Interim Assessment of Achieving Improved Trip Times on the Northeast Corridor* (Amtrak, October 21, 2009.)
 - Reduce travel time, improve train operations, improve service capacity, and maintain rail services
- **Public Input**
 - Project area communities – residents, businesses, and community organizations
 - Local, state, and regional rail passenger and freight interests
 - Environmental interests and organizations
- **Federal and State Regulatory and Resource Agency Input**
 - Federal
 - State and Local
- **Environmental Laws and Regulations**
 - National Historic Preservation Act
 - Executive Order 12898 - Environmental Justice
 - US DOT Act of 1966 – Section 4(f) – Protection of public parks and historic properties

Preferred Alternative - To Be Determined

Through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, it is FRA's responsibility to identify a Preferred Alternative that meets the needs and goals benefiting intercity passenger rail services, in consideration of the environmental consequences, and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment.