

# Project Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Project is to address the structural and operational deficiencies of the existing B&P Tunnel, and to accommodate future high-performance intercity passenger rail service goals for the NEC based on the following needs:

- The existing B&P Tunnel is approaching the end of its useful life in regard to its general physical condition;
- The existing B&P Tunnel does not provide enough capacity to support existing and projected demands for regional and commuter passenger service along the NEC;
- The existing B&P Tunnel is not suited for modern high-speed usage due to the current horizontal and vertical track alignment, which limits passenger train speeds through the tunnel to 30 mph; and
- The existing B&P Tunnel is a valuable resource. The disposition of the existing tunnel needs to be considered in the Project.

