

THE EFFECTS ON COMMUTER RAIL OPERATING AGENCIES OF ELIMINATING AMTRAK SERVICE ON THE NORTHEAST CORRIDOR



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In March 2002, Econsult completed an analysis of the effects on the commuter rail operators on the Northeast Corridor (NEC) of the potential elimination of Amtrak inter-city service on the NEC. The shift in passengers from Amtrak to commuter rail will result in a shift in costs (operating, capital, and state of good repair/capital backlog) from Amtrak to the commuter rail providers for these passengers.

We examined the implications of these two shifts for the commuter rail agencies under three scenarios. The first assumes additional funds from public subsidies; the second assumes additional funds from commuter rail riders plus public subsidies; the third assumes that the total required additional revenue is generated by higher fares for commuters with no additional public funds. Each of the three scenarios has different implications for commuter rail authorities, their riders, and the communities served by Amtrak and the commuter rail authorities. We concluded that further degradation of the NEC infrastructure will adversely affect commuter rail use and the communities that depend on commuter rail service.