

New England Railroad Map 2020 Version



AMTRAK FUTURE or PROPOSED ROUTES

AMTRAK ROUTE

OPERATING COMMUTER / SEASONAL SERVICE (Active, Seasonal or Under Construction)

PROPOSED or UNDER CONSTRUCTION
OTHER PAGGENCES DAW INTEREST

OTHER PASSENGER RAIL INTERESTS
(Parts or All)

ABANDONED - TRACK IN PLACE or REMOVED

OUT OF SERVICE - TRACK IN PLACE

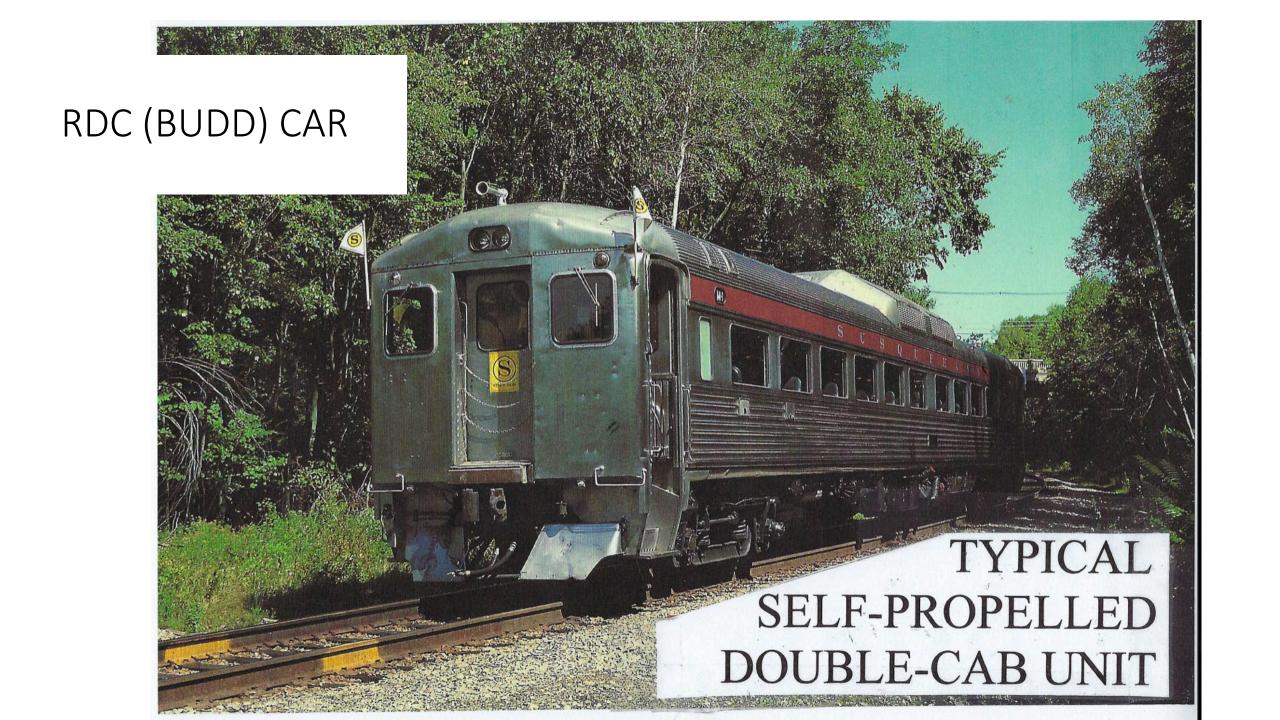
AMTK (MNCR)

OWNERSHIP (OPERATING RIGHTS)

INTERMODAL FACILITIES (Active or Available)

CARGO PORTS





Highlight:
Portland & WRJct.
Connection

Ownership from Portland to White River Jct.

- Portland to Westbrook: PAR active Downeaster station & freight.
- Westbrook to Fryeburg, ME State of Maine, out-of-service; track in place.
- ME /NH State line to north end Saco River bridge o-o-s; track in place.
- Saco River bridge to Hazens NH owned, seasonal operations by Conway Scenic Railroad.
- Hazens to Whitefield, NH operations by New Hampshire Central RR.
- Whitefield, NH to St. Johnsbury, VT PAR owned (?) o-o-s; track damaged.
- St.Johnsbury, VT to WRJct., VT Vermont owned, WACR operated.

"Crown of New England" Rail Service

- Railroads, like highways aren't designed to stop at state lines.
- The Mountain Division runs from Portland's Amtrak Downeaster station, with nearby Clarion Hotel, to St. Johnsbury, VT, with active north and south rail service from there.
- The southward connection goes to White River Junction, VT, location of an active station stop for Amtrak's Vermonter, within a short walk of Coolidge Hotel.
- A seasonal Portland to White River Junction rail connection, coordinated with Amtrak Downeaster and Vermonter services, brings tourists from the nationally-served range of Amtrak points to visit some of the most attractive destinations in northern New England. These range from the Portland seaport to the White Mountains to the Connecticut River Valley, accessible by Amtrak with stop-overs and without their personal vehicles.

Multi-State Passenger Rail – A Few Examples

- Amtrak *Downeaster:* ME, NH, MA
- Amtrak Vermonter: VT, NH, MA, CT, NY, NJ, PA, DL, MD, WA, D.C.
- Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad: (ex D&RGW), NM, CO (Federal Charter)
- White Pass & Yukon Railroad: AL, Yukon Territory, Canada (tourist ships at Skagway)

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recognize the interests of New Hampshire and Vermont before taking unilateral action by Maine that destroys the MD rail corridor continuity for the foreseeable future.
- Explore jointly by States of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont the economic potentials, costs and fair apportionments between states and other concerned interests. Ideally, such study is endorsed jointly by the three state governors.
- Recognize Conway Scenic Railroad's established seasonal operation on the NH part of this line and Conway Scenic's potential for enhancement.
- Accommodate recreational trails in the corridor where mutual safety, railroad operations and sound economics are not compromised.
- Freight: Discount overhead freight potential due to competing railroad lines north and south of the MD and year-around operations through Crawford Notch. Consider local freight options served year-around from Portland and St. Johnsbury.
- Commuter, local passenger and excursions: Consider these uses for parts of the MD railroad corridor.
- I believe federal grant(s) requests will be more competitive on a joint three-state basis than singly.
- Project evaluation on cost alone offers a false choice. It should be Benefits vs. Costs for the full range of impacts: Regional economies, tourism, Downeaster, Vermonter, Amtrak nationally, local freight, Portland commuter, etc.
- Final note: The Map suggests that with NH's restoration of their ex B&M, now NH state-owned railroad segment between Ossipee
 and Conway, and with severance of Maine's MD, Maine is removed from future passenger rail traffic on the MD generated through
 bi or tri state cooperation. Such traffic might then be served from Boston via the present Amtrak Downeaster station in Dover, NH by-passing Maine entirely.