Southeast, NY-to-Danbury CT Link
Feasibility/Planning Study

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Collaborative efforts with other stakeholders will include:

- Putnam County
- Metropolitan Transportation Authority*
- Metro North Railroad*
- NYMTC
- City of Danbury
- Western Connecticut Council of Governments (WestCOG)

*MTA/MNR will be key advisors to the study.

Putnam County will oversee the conduct of the study, which is federally funded through NYMTC’s Unified Planning Work Program.
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The study will look to the area of potential and future growth markets and transportation expansion and growth and future modes of transportation will be considered.

The purpose of the study includes:

- Determine financial feasibility
- Determine operational feasibility
- Study the need to restore passenger service between Danbury and Southeast
- Fully define the impact area
- Develop a conceptual service plan
- Study future travel markets
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The impetus for the study is to analyze the regional railroad mobility demand taking into account the following:

✓ Benefits of the rail connection to:
  • Southeast, NY
  • Danbury, CT
  • MNR/MTA

✓ Consideration of Capital Expenditure Avoidance
✓ Consideration of Operating Expenditure Avoidance
✓ Relief of current travel demands on Routes 84/684
✓ Congestion Management and Air Quality Improvement
✓ Benefits to riders and maximization of public transit services
✓ Quality of life improvements for the region
✓ Improvement to regional public mobility
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The Study is anticipated to, among other things, assess the Mobility Market Demand to:

- Search for the regional demand
- Test public buy-in to a new transit concept
- Identify the demand and its stakeholders
- Create awareness of a new transportation service
- Allow for public feedback/participation
- Contribute to operations and development of surveys
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The RFP process to begin in January 2020 will search for the consulting firm to develop a feasibility and planning study by:

- Engaging a Technical Advisory Group and Study Steering Committee
- Developing and Implement a Study Outreach Program
- Defining the Study Area and Assess Existing Conditions
- Identifying Conceptual Service Plans
- Forecasting Travel Markets For Restored Service in the Rail Corridor
- Assessing the Feasibility of Restoring Service in the Rail Corridor
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Anticipated Timeline
“Preliminary Draft”

- 12/2019: DRAFT RFP
- 1/2020: Advertise/Bid Rfp
- 3/2020: RFP Review Process
- 9/2020: Consultant Selection & Contracting
- 10/2020: Organize TAC/SSC
- 12/2020: Develop Outreach Program