



B. Lipfert, 2019



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Courtesy of Amtrak, 2016

## CONNECT NEC 2035 Projects will Produce a Reliable and Resilient NEC

The Northeast Corridor (NEC) rail network has fueled the growth that has made this America's most densely populated region, with unrivaled economic output, high quality of life, and global leadership in arts, sciences and commerce. The NEC's eight commuter rail operators and Amtrak **connect people** to our nation's capital in Washington D.C., to the global financial center in New York City, to international leaders of learning and science in Boston and Philadelphia, and all the other cities and communities rich in culture and commerce that many of us call home.

**The NEC network has served us well for over 100 years**, but it is time to restore this asset and invest in it for future generations. The NEC is a complex system, including four right-of-way infrastructure owners, eight commuter railroad operators, Amtrak, and six freight railroad operators. The NEC Commission has convened all these stakeholders, as well as all relevant partners in state and federal government, to advance **CONNECT NEC 2035** by fall 2021.

**CONNECT NEC 2035** will be a unified blueprint for sequencing all capital investments required to achieve our shared long-term vision for the future of the corridor.

The NEC is a **national asset** with **aging infrastructure**. The original investments made generations ago have paid dividends far longer than anticipated. **It is now time to reinvest.** Allowing the asset to decay is not acceptable; doing so would lead to increased infrastructure failures, increased delays, lost productivity, a drag on our economy, and a compromise in our quality of life. It also would place greater strains on our highway network and air system, as people stop using rail in search of other modes of transportation, even if those options are less efficient and less sustainable. A single day without service on the NEC would cost the economy \$100 million in lost productivity and transportation-related impacts.

The NEC connects people to the opportunities and experiences that make this region a desirable place to live, work, visit, learn, and grow, **and the benefits cascade across the entire nation.** The Northeast region is a major contributor to the US economy and the NEC adds to its global competitiveness by supporting alternatives to the congested highways and airports found in every major economic hub. A reliable and resilient NEC will support future growth of our interconnected regional and national economies.



## COVID-19

We are in a moment of great uncertainty. Where is our economy going? How will people travel? CONNECT NEC 2035 holds the potential to be a mobilizing force in putting people back to work immediately and for the long term. This work will help the rail system absorb the travel demand that will surely grow as we come back to work and our economy returns to full strength. We can prepare now for existing needs and use CONNECT NEC 2035 to put it on a positive trajectory for the future.



# The NEC Drives Economic Activity and Quality of Life



## PEOPLE

Ride any train in the Northeast and you will see people on journeys – employees going to work, business travelers heading to meetings, students on their way to school, and tourists visiting cultural centers. People rely on the trains to get where they need and want to go.

**CONNECT NEC 2035** is about supporting the people who depend on it and about keeping our economy moving.

However, service disruptions on the NEC already cost the economy approximately \$1 billion per year in lost productivity. Issues with infrastructure assets such as signals, communications, track, and power systems account for one out of every four passenger delay minutes. **CONNECT NEC 2035** includes projects that will modernize infrastructure to reduce those delays and build capacity to reduce delays caused by rail traffic congestion.

*The B&P tunnel is one of dozens of NEC assets over 100 years old contributing to recurring delays to trains and passengers*



Courtesy of Amtrak, 2017



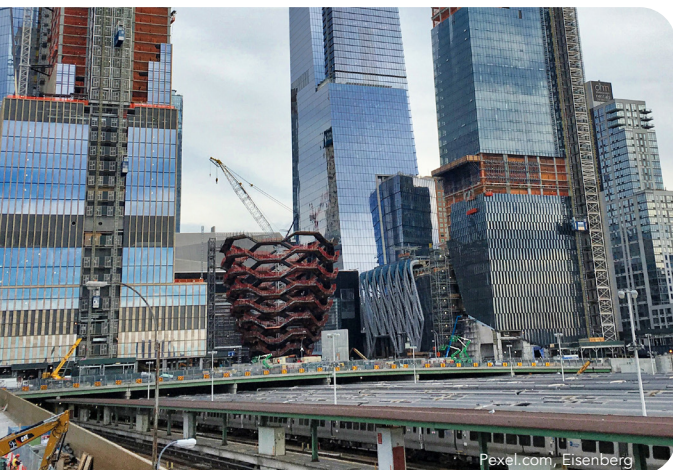
## PLACE

The NEC connects people to the jobs they want from the communities they call home. The value of that proximity to the NEC is evident in the explosive new development around stations in cities and towns big and small. **CONNECT NEC 2035** includes station revitalization projects to bolster this growth.

**Providence, RI**, is transforming an old interstate highway into a new downtown area that has attracted tenants in the education, health, and technology sectors. Its proximity to Providence Station connects it with health and science hubs along the corridor.

**New York, NY**, the largest city along the NEC is growing and transforming with the advancement of the Hudson Yards development near Penn Station New York. Hudson Yards will include over 18 million square feet of office space and approximately 1 million square feet of retail space.

*Between 2008 and 2017 jobs grew 44% within a half mile of New York Penn Station*



Pexel.com, Eisenberg



Generate economic value for the region and the nation



Connect employees and businesses to markets along the corridor



Support place making and station development



Reduce delays that cost people time and productivity



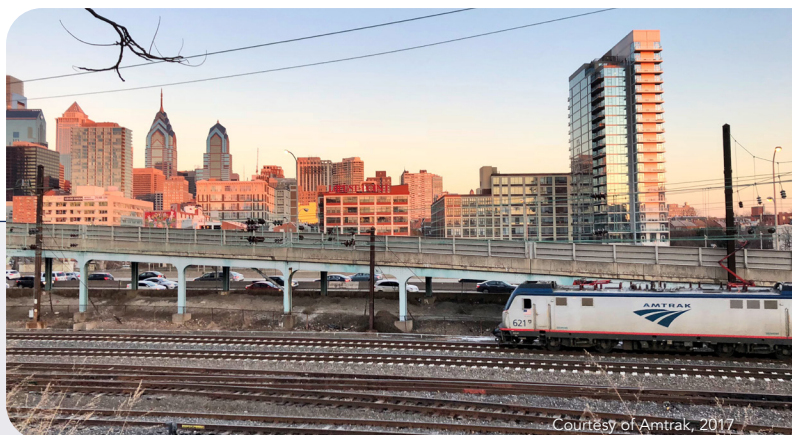


## REGION

The Northeast's metropolitan economies are highly interconnected. The NEC facilitates this dynamic, making access to its stations attractive to employers. Nearly one third of all jobs in the Northeast are within five miles of a NEC station. Some workers use the NEC to cross regional boundaries on their daily commutes, others for important business travel. **CONNECT NEC 2035** includes infrastructure projects that ensure this future regional mobility.

**Wilmington, DE**, is a smaller city with a big influence regionally. Within walking distance of Wilmington Station are 16,000 jobs, 32 percent of which are in the financial services and insurance sectors. Downtown Wilmington is home to 25 nationally recognized firms in these sectors which are closely integrated into the wider Northeast Corridor economy. What is equally impressive is that nearly a thousand people commute to the Wilmington area from adjacent urbanized areas along the corridor like New York, Baltimore, and Washington, DC, and a similar number travel out of Wilmington to go to their jobs in those same three cities.

**Philadelphia, PA**, is an attractive location for residents and businesses because of its central location along the NEC. About 120,000 residents in the Philadelphia metropolitan area have jobs in the New York metropolitan area, representing 5.1 percent of the total workforce in 2017. An additional 86,000 New York area residents have jobs in Philadelphia.



Courtesy of Amtrak, 2017



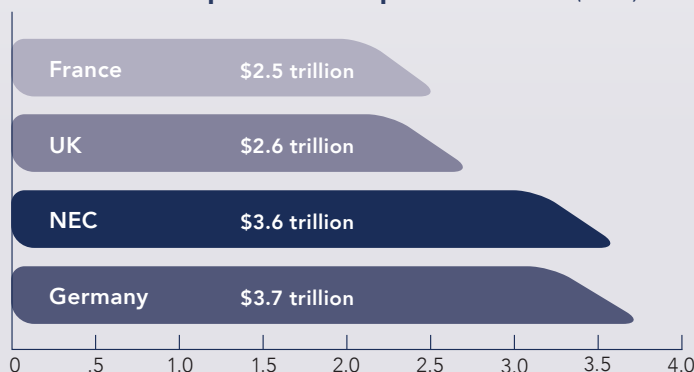
## NATION

The Northeast is key to the United States' international competitiveness. It is one of the largest economic markets in the world. The metropolitan areas served by the NEC had a combined Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of \$3.6 trillion in 2017, representing 18 percent of America's total GDP in 2017 of \$19.5 trillion.

Four of the ten largest metropolitan area economies in the U.S. (by 2017 GDP) are located along the NEC. **The Fortune 500 includes 138 companies based along the NEC.** In 2018 these companies generated a combined \$3.3 trillion in annual revenue, over \$300 million in profits, and employed almost 8 million people worldwide.

The NEC is also a vital link between the North American freight rail network and East Coast industries and ports. Producers of raw materials and manufactured goods across the continent rely on a functioning and reliable NEC to keep goods moving to and from both regional industries and the global marketplace.

### NEC GDP Compared to European Countries (2017)



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## CONNECT NEC 2035 will Show How to Deliver the Vision

**CONNECT NEC 2035** will be the **first program of its kind**. The NEC Commission is leading a collaborative and consensus-based program for all stakeholders to identify and sequence infrastructure investments to preserve a valued asset and unlock its future potential. The work will include major bridge and tunnel replacements, renewal of basic capital assets (e.g., track, signal, and power systems), and improvements for higher capacity and speed. The program will align with both agency goals and the vision set forth in the **NEC FUTURE Record of Decision** ([https://www.fra.dot.gov/necfuture/tier1\\_eis/rod/](https://www.fra.dot.gov/necfuture/tier1_eis/rod/)). The **CONNECT NEC 2035** program is targeted to be completed by fall 2021.

These investments will improve reliability, make the network more resilient to disruptions, and set the stage for future growth. **CONNECT NEC 2035** will be *delivery constrained*, including realistic assumptions about which projects can be delivered given workforce needs, track outages, and service impacts.

The **CONNECT NEC 2035** program will be *financially unconstrained*, relying on a combination of traditional, new, and innovative funding and financing strategies that could feasibly fund the entire proposed program.

Investment in the rail system through **CONNECT NEC 2035** means:

- **Faster, more comfortable, and more reliable service** through track upgrades and infrastructure renewal
- **Welcoming and accessible stations** that provide people safe and clear connections throughout their journey
- **High quality jobs and employment** from the build out of the CONNECT NEC 2035 plan
- **A restored and improved system**, worthy of the region and nation it serves



Courtesy of Amtrak, 2018

**CONNECT  
NEC 2035**  
will include  
transformational  
projects like  
the replacement  
of Portal Bridge



Courtesy of Amtrak, 2018

The Northeast Corridor Commission's mission is to bring the states, commuter agencies, Amtrak, and US DOT together to modernize and improve the Northeast Corridor rail system through increased collaboration, transparency, planning, and accountability.

**Northeast Corridor Commission**  
10 G Street, NE, Suite 360  
Washington, DC 20002  
[CONNECTNEC2035@nec-commission.com](mailto:CONNECTNEC2035@nec-commission.com)

