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 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.

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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 NEC Drives Economic Activity and Quality of Life

- 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

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

1/2 Mile 44% Growth

1 Mile 30% Growth

5 Miles 23% Growth

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
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.

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>GDP (trillion)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>$2.5 trillion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>$2.6 trillion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEC</td>
<td>$3.6 trillion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>$3.7 trillion</td>
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B. Lipfert, 2019
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/). 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

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.