



Granite State Poll indicates strong statewide support for continued pursuit of Rail Investment for the New Hampshire Capital Corridor

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Bipartisan support found in recent Granite State Poll for extending commuter rail service in the New Hampshire Capital Corridor. Survey results suggest strong support across all parties, political ideologies and geographic regions of the State.

As part of its effort to gauge continued support for efforts to extend passenger rail service into New Hampshire along the NH Capital Corridor, the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority (NHRTA) commissioned the UNH Survey Research Center to include two questions in its Granite State Poll conducted January 27-February 6, 2011. The Survey Center is an independent, non-partisan academic survey research organization and one of the preeminent and respected polling firms in the State. The results show strong support for both continued efforts on the NH Capital Corridor and the specific task of accepting federal funds to complete the feasibility study for the proposed corridor. These results are consistent with similar survey questioning done by the UNH Survey Research Center in 2007.

The Poll results indicate that a strong majority of residents of the State see the value of New Hampshire moving forward with final study and investments, which will return commuter and intercity rail to the central corridor of the State. Support from other regions of the State indicates broad recognition of the importance of passenger rail to all of New Hampshire, both as an economic investment and as a transportation option for all NH residents.

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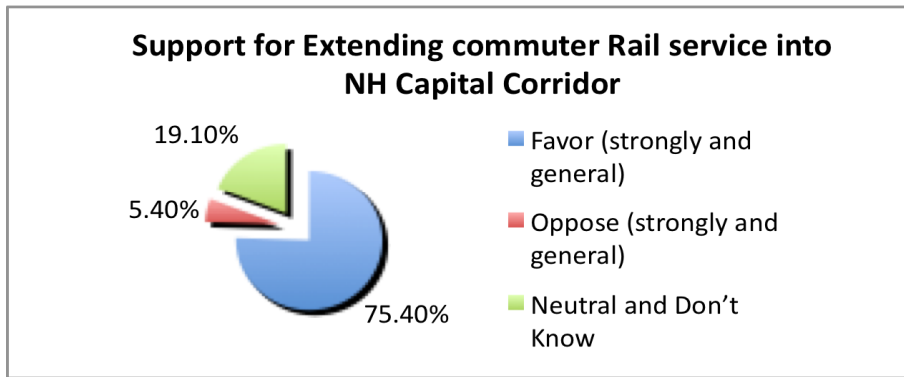
In 2007 the NH State Legislature passed SB-75 for the purpose of “establishing a New Hampshire rail transit authority that will have responsibility for developing and providing commuter rail and related public rail transportation services in New Hampshire.” The New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority looks forward to expediting the process of gaining federal and private investment for rail line improvements in New Hampshire and supporting the return of passenger service along the NH Capital Corridor. Acceptance of federal planning funds and completion of required project design and studies are a required step for our future progress.



University of New Hampshire Survey Center
Granite State Poll Results Jan 27-Feb 6, 2011
Margin of Error +/- 4.3%

Support for extending commuter rail service into NH Capital Corridor:

Favor (strongly and general)	75.4%
Oppose (strongly and general)	5.4%
Neutral and Don't Know	19.1%



NHRTA1 All Respondents		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Favor	278	53.3	53.3	53.3
	Favor	115	22.1	22.1	75.4
	Neutral	25	4.7	4.7	80.2
	Oppose	14	2.8	2.8	82.9
	Strongly Oppose	14	2.6	2.6	85.6
	Don't Know	75	14.4	14.4	100.0
	Total	520	100.0	100.0	

Survey Question NHRTA 1:

In 2009, the State established a Rail Authority; enabling extension of commuter rail service from Boston and Lowell into New Hampshire through Nashua to Concord including Manchester and the Manchester airport, know as the NH Capital Corridor. Do you favor or oppose extending commuter rail service into this corridor in New Hampshire or do you not have an opinion on this?



2011 NHRTA 1

Support for extending commuter rail service into NH Capital Corridor

and the results hold strongly across all NH regions...

Region >	Northern	Western	Central/Lakes	Hillsborough County	Seacoast
Favor	73%	69%	74%	81%	74%
Oppose	8%	4%	8%	7%	1%
Neutral	19%	26%	19%	11%	25%

Congressional District	First	Second
Favor	85%	75%
Oppose	4%	7%
Neutral	21%	17%

and across all ideologies and party affiliation...

Party Identification	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Favor	86%	76%	67%
Oppose	4%	6%	7%
Neutral	11%	18%	25%

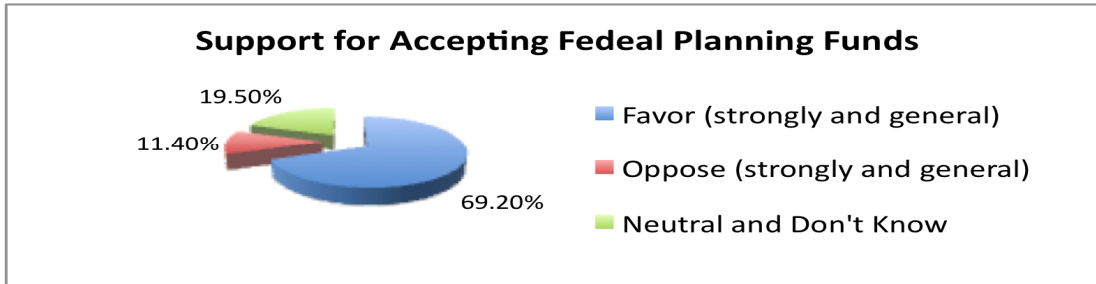
Political Ideology	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Favor	88%	85%	61%
Oppose	2%	4%	9%
Neutral	10%	11%	30%



2011 NHRTA 2

Support for accepting federal funds to complete planning study:

Favor (strongly and general) 69.2%
 Oppose (strongly and general) 11.4%
 Neutral and Don't Know 19.5%



NHRTA 2 All Respondents		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly Favor	232	44.6	44.6	44.6
	Favor	128	24.6	24.6	69.2
	Neutral	19	3.7	3.7	72.9
	Oppose	21	4.1	4.1	77.0
	Strongly Oppose	38	7.3	7.3	84.2
	Don't Know	82	15.8	15.8	100.0
	Total	520	100.0	100.0	

Survey Question NHRTA 2:

In 2010, the State Rail Transit Authority was awarded \$2.2 million of federal funds for completion of planning and environmental studies to determine the viability of commuter rail in that New Hampshire Capital Corridor. The service would provide direct rail connection between Boston and three NH communities. Do you favor or oppose New Hampshire accepting the federal funding and moving forward to determine the long-term costs and feasibility of this commuter rail service or do you not have an opinion on this?

2011 NHRTA 2

Support for accepting federal funds to complete planning study

the results hold strongly across all NH regions...



Region >	Northern	Western	Central/Lakes	Hillsborough County	Seacoast
Favor	55%	63%	75%	75%	69%
Oppose	14%	6%	12%	13%	10%
Neutral	31%	31%	13%	11%	20%

Congressional District	First	Second
Favor	71%	68%
Oppose	11%	12%
Neutral	18%	20%

and across all ideologies and party affiliation...

Party Identification	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Favor	86%	62%	59%
Oppose	3%	19%	16%
Neutral	10%	20%	26%

Political Ideology	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Favor	86%	79%	59%
Oppose	3%	5%	23%
Neutral	11%	16%	27%



This compares closely with two questions included in a Granite State poll conducted in **February 2007**, which found strong support for extension of rail service in the NH Capital Corridor and the Rail Authority itself. (4.9% margin of error)

COMR4**Favor or oppose extending rail service into NH through Nashua to Manchester, including Manchester airport**

Favor (strongly and general)	87%
Oppose (strongly and general)	5%
Neutral and Don't Know	8%

COMR5**Should the state create a Rail Authority to oversee potential expansion of passenger rail into New Hampshire?**

Yes	73%
No	13%
Neutral and Don't Know	14%