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**NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY**

Media Release



**For Immediate Release
September 12, 2012**

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Downeaster Service to Freeport & Brunswick Begins November 1, 2012

PORTLAND, Maine – The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) announced today that the Amtrak Downeaster will begin providing daily rail service to Freeport and Brunswick, Maine beginning November 1, 2012. The Downeaster currently makes five round-trips daily between Portland and Boston. Beginning November 1, two of those round-trips will serve Freeport and Brunswick. NNEPRA also announced changes to the Portland to Boston schedule which will take effect on October 15, 2012.

According to NNEPRA Board Chairman, Martin Eisenstein, “Expanding service to Freeport and Brunswick has been one of NNEPRA’s key objectives. It will improve connectivity to mid-coast Maine, increase tourism and continue to stimulate economic development in the region. Thanks to a strong partnership with the Federal Railroad Administration, Pan Am Railways, Amtrak and the Maine Department of Transportation, we are proud to deliver this expanded service on schedule and on budget.”

The Downeaster service expansion required a multi-million dollar rehabilitation of 30 miles of track, owned primarily by Pan Am Railways, between Portland and Brunswick. The two-year construction project, funding primarily with a \$38.3m grant from the American Recovery and Rehabilitation Act (ARRA) began in the summer of 2010.

“The expansion of the Downeaster is an excellent example of how FRA, the state of Maine, NNEPRA and Amtrak worked together to reconnect Brunswick and Freeport to Portland and Boston for the first time since 1959,” said Federal Railroad Administrator Joseph C. Szabo. “It also serves as an example of how intercity passenger rail can serve as a catalyst for a new wave of residential, retail, and hospitality development creating more than \$400 million of new economic development.”

To date, more than 30 miles of rail and 33,000 ties have been installed, 36 grade crossings have been rehabilitated and two station platforms have been constructed between Portland and Brunswick. The remaining track work and signal work is expected to be completed within the coming weeks.

Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

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“Amtrak applauds our long standing partners at NNEPRA and to all who have played a role to extend the successful *Downeaster* line to Brunswick,” said Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman. “It allows for greater transportation options for New England rail passengers and coincides with record ridership demand on both the *Downeaster* and rail travel throughout the country. We look forward to working together with all of our partners in Maine in providing continued exemplary service in the coming years.”

Service to Freeport and Brunswick:

Beginning on November 1, the *Downeaster* will make two round-trips daily between Brunswick and Boston, including stops in Freeport and all other *Downeaster* stations. The limited schedule has been developed to provide convenient day trip options for both southbound and northbound travelers. Southbound travelers will be able to depart Brunswick at 7:05am daily, arriving in Boston at 10:30am. A northbound train will depart Boston 5:00pm on weekdays, returning to Brunswick at 8:25pm. Northbound travelers will be able to depart Boston at 9:05am on weekdays, arriving in Brunswick at 12:25pm. A 5:50pm southbound train will return to Boston at 9:15pm. There will also be an early morning and late evening trip between Portland and Brunswick to position trains for their Boston excursion. Weekend and holiday schedules will vary slightly. One-way fares between Brunswick and Boston will be less than \$30 per person. Multi-ride passes, including the College 6-TIX will also be available. Passengers can make reservations for travel to/from Freeport and Brunswick beginning on October 1, 2012. For more information, visit AmtrakDowneaster.com.

Downeaster Schedule Changes Effective October 15, 2012

NNEPRA and Amtrak have also announced minor changes to the existing schedule between Portland and Boston. On weekdays, the first southbound departure from Portland will be 20 minutes earlier to allow commuters the opportunity to get to work in Boston earlier. The 5:40pm departure from Boston has been temporarily changed to 6:45pm, and the last southbound departure from Portland will leave one hour earlier at 6:45pm. On weekends, the northbound 6:45pm departure has been changed to 8:00pm.

Seasonal service to Old Orchard Beach will terminate on October 14, 2012 and resume in the spring of 2013.

About the Downeaster

The Amtrak *Downeaster* makes five round-trips daily between Portland, ME and Boston, MA serving 8 communities in between: Old Orchard Beach, Saco and Wells, Maine; Dover, Durham-UNH and Exeter, NH; Haverhill and Woburn, MA. The *Downeaster* has experienced record-breaking ridership for the past 7 years, and has more than doubled since 2005, exceeding 528,000 riders in FY2012. Fiscal 2013 year-to-date ridership is 9.1% greater than last year. *Downeaster* service to Freeport and Brunswick is expected to generate more than 30,000 new riders annually.

SCHEDULE



EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 15, 2012

SOUTHBOUND		WEEKDAY SCHEDULE						WEEKEND SCHEDULE					
TRAIN NUMBER		680	682	684	686	688	676	690	692	694	696	698	678
DAYS OPERATING		M-F	M-F	M-F	M-F	M-F	M-F	Sat-Sun	Sat-Sun	Sat-Sun	Sat-Sun	Sat-Sun	Sat-Sun
DEPARTS													
Brunswick, ME			7:05 am			5:50 pm	8:30 pm		7:05 am			5:50 pm	9:10 pm
Freeport, ME			7:20 am			6:05 pm	F 8:45 pm		7:20 am			6:05 pm	F 9:25 pm
BRUNSWICK AND FREEPORT SERVICE STARTING NOVEMBER 1, 2012													
Portland, ME		5:25 am	8:00 am	12:35 pm	2:35 pm	6:45 pm	9:20 pm	5:35 am	8:00 am	1:20 pm	3:45 pm	6:45 pm	9:55 pm
Saco, ME		5:47 am	8:22 am	12:57 pm	2:57 pm	7:07 pm		5:57 am	8:22 am	1:42 pm	4:07 pm	7:07 pm	
Wells, ME		6:06 am	8:41 am	1:19 pm	3:16 pm	7:27 pm		6:16 am	8:41 am	1:59 pm	4:27 pm	7:27 pm	
Dover, NH		6:24 am	8:59 am	1:37 pm	3:34 pm	7:47 pm		6:34 am	8:59 am	2:17 pm	4:47 pm	7:47 pm	
Durham-UNH, NH		6:31 am	9:06 am	1:44 pm	3:41 pm	7:54 pm		6:41 am	9:06 am	2:24 pm	4:54 pm	7:54 pm	
Exeter, NH		6:46 am	9:21 am	1:59 pm	3:56 pm	8:09 pm		6:56 am	9:21 am	2:37 pm	5:09 pm	8:09 pm	
Haverhill, MA		7:05 am	9:38 am	2:18 pm	4:13 pm	8:28 pm		7:15 am	9:38 am	2:58 pm	5:28 pm	8:28 pm	
Woburn, MA		D 7:31 am	D 10:04 am	D 2:44 pm	D 4:39 pm	D 8:54 pm		D 7:41 am	D 10:04 am	D 3:24 pm	D 5:54 pm	D 8:54 pm	
ARRIVES													
Boston North Station		7:55 am	10:30 am	3:05 pm	5:05 pm	9:15 pm		8:05 am	10:30 am	3:45 pm	6:15 pm	9:15 pm	

NORTHBOUND		WEEKDAY SCHEDULE						WEEKEND SCHEDULE					
TRAIN NUMBER		671	681	683	685	687	689	671	691	693	695	697	699
DAYS OPERATING		M-F	M-F	M-F	M-F	M-F	M-F	Sat-Sun	Sat-Sun	Sat-Sun	Sat-Sun	Sat-Sun	Sat-Sun
DEPARTS													
Boston North Station			9:05 am	11:35 am	5:00 pm	6:45 pm	11:00 pm		9:05 am	11:35 am	5:40 pm	8:00 pm	11:00 pm
Woburn, MA			R 9:23 am	R 11:53 am	R 5:18 pm	R 7:03 pm	R 11:18 pm		R 9:23 am	R 11:53 am	R 5:58 pm	R 8:18 pm	R 11:18 pm
Haverhill, MA			9:52 am	12:22 pm	5:47 pm	7:32 pm	11:47 pm		9:52 am	12:22 pm	6:27 pm	8:47 pm	11:47 pm
Exeter, NH			10:12 am	12:42 pm	6:07 pm	7:49 pm	12:07 am		10:12 am	12:42 pm	6:47 pm	9:07 pm	12:07 am
Durham-UNH, NH			10:25 am	12:55 pm	6:20 pm	8:06 pm	12:20 am		10:25 am	12:55 pm	7:00 pm	9:20 pm	12:20 am
Dover, NH			10:33 am	1:03 pm	6:28 pm	8:14 pm	12:28 am		10:33 am	1:03 pm	7:08 pm	9:28 pm	12:28 am
Wells, ME			10:49 am	1:19 pm	6:44 pm	8:30 pm	12:44 am		10:49 am	1:19 pm	7:26 pm	9:44 pm	12:44 am
Saco, ME			11:05 am	1:35 pm	7:00 pm	8:46 pm	1:00 am		11:05 am	1:35 pm	7:42 pm	10:00 pm	1:00 am
Portland, ME		6:00 am	11:40 am	2:00 pm	7:35 pm	9:10 pm	1:25 am	6:00 am	11:40 am	2:00 pm	8:15 pm	10:25 pm	1:25 am
BRUNSWICK AND FREEPORT SERVICE STARTING NOVEMBER 1, 2012													
Freeport, ME		F 6:30 am	12:10 pm		8:05 pm			F 6:30 am	12:10 pm		8:45 pm		
ARRIVES													
Brunswick, ME		6:45 am	12:25 pm		8:20 pm			6:45 am	12:25 pm		9:00 pm		

D STOPS TO DISCHARGE PASSENGERS ONLY **R** STOPS TO RECEIVE PASSENGERS ONLY **F** FLAG STOP, STOPS ON ADVANCE NOTICE ONLY

Schedules subject to change without notice.

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