

## Downeaster Coastal Connection Info Sheet:

NNEPRA is exploring the potential to operate seasonal, weekend service to Rockland with interim station stops in Bath, Wiscasset and Newcastle on Friday evenings, Saturdays and Sundays during the summer months and early fall.

The Amtrak Downeaster currently makes 3 round trips daily between Brunswick and Boston and 2 round trips daily between Portland and Boston. The Coastal Connection would operate as an extension of existing Amtrak Downeaster service via the scenic Rockland Branch rail line between Brunswick and Rockland.

- The service would be operated using Amtrak train equipment and crews.
- Tickets would be sold through Amtrak’s national reservation system.
- A 2-hour trip time between Brunswick and Rockland has been estimated. A final trip time has not yet been confirmed.

*Conceptual schedule for discussion purposes only. Trains operating between Brunswick and Boston will make all Downeaster station stops.*

	FRIDAY PROPOSED		SATURDAY and SUNDAY PROPOSED			
	Train #	Train #	Train #	Train #	Train #	Train #
	<b>685</b>	<i>new</i>	<i>new</i>	<b>694</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>698</b>
ROCKLAND	↑ 10:10pm	↓ 10:20pm	↑ 9:45am	↓ 10:00am	↑ 3:10pm	↓ 4:00pm
NEWCASTLE	9:10pm	11:20pm	8:45am	11:00am	2:10pm	5:00pm
WISCASSET	8:55pm	11:35pm	8:30am	11:15am	1:55pm	5:15pm
BATH	8:40pm	11:55pm	8:10am	11:35am	1:35pm	5:35pm
BRUNSWICK	8:20pm	↓ 12:15am	↑ 7:50am	11:55am	1:15pm	5:55pm
PORTLAND	7:30pm			12:55pm	12:20pm	6:55pm
WELLS	6:48pm			1:40pm	11:35am	7:34pm
BOSTON	5:00pm			↓ 3:30pm	9:45am	↓ 9:30pm

The Rockland Branch is owned by the MaineDOT. The Central Maine and Quebec (CMQ) Railroad operates freight rail transportation between Rockland and Brunswick on the line currently. Amtrak can contract with the CMQ for operating rights over the line.

The ability to operate the Coastal Connection service will be based on availability of funding for the operating costs and complete upgrades to station facilities as necessary. NNEPRA is working with Amtrak to finalize cost estimate and ridership/revenue projections. Station Communities would be



responsible for assuring temporary platforms are in place, that access to the train meets ADA accessibility requirements that access to boarding areas is safe for the travelling public.

The decision whether or not to proceed with a 2018 pilot program is anticipated in March 2018.

NNEPRA is interested in public interest, concerns and input regarding the potential for passenger rail service to Rockland and invites comment at [info@nnepra.com](mailto:info@nnepra.com).