

Cumberland County Government
27 Northport Drive, Portland, Maine 04103
207-871-8380 • cumberlandcounty.org



James H. Gailey, County Manager

August 15, 2025

Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority
75 West Commercial Street, Suite 104
Portland, ME 04101
Subject: Train Station Relocation - Site 2

Dear Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority,

This letter expresses significant concern to Site 2 for the proposed Portland train station relocation, as outlined in the VHB report dated December 5, 2024. While acknowledging the potential benefits of relocating the station, such as increased efficiency and improved passenger experience, the proximity of Site 2 to the Cumberland County Jail presents unacceptable security risks.

Site 2, located south of Congress Street near Union Station Plaza, is situated directly between the Cumberland County Jail and St. John Street. The close proximity of a public transportation hub to a correctional facility raises significant safety and security concerns for passengers, residents, and correctional staff alike.

Introducing a high-traffic train station adjacent to the jail could:

- **Compromise Jail Security:** The constant movement of people and vehicles associated with a train station could create opportunities for security breaches, illicit activities, and potential escape attempts.
- **Endanger Public Safety:** An incident at the jail or the train station could endanger a large number of people in a confined area. Evacuation of the jail is complex coordinated effort, one that the County tends to try to mitigate exposure.
- **Increase Traffic Congestion:** The area surrounding the jail already experiences significant traffic, and a new train station would exacerbate these issues, impacting response times and daily commutes. Additionally, train patrons may attempt to gain access to available parking on the County's jail campus.

- Create Unnecessary Strain on Law Enforcement and Correctional Facilities: Responding to incidents or concerns in such close proximity would place an additional burden on already strained resources.
- Impacts to County Property: through the installation of a third rail with subsequent relocation of the County Way right-of-way this would move closer to the jail property, impacting County jail & facilities operations and full perimeter security and emergency coverage.

While acknowledging the desirability of a new train station, the selection of a site that jeopardizes the safety and security of the community is of major concern to the County. We have no objections to Site 3, the site selected by NNEPRA, but would have serious concerns if Site 2 were selected.

Prioritizing public safety in the selection of the new station location is essential.

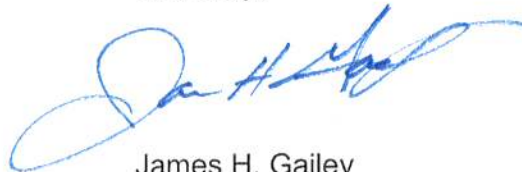
Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Joyce'.

Kevin Joyce
Sheriff

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'James H. Gailey'.

James H. Gailey
County Manager