

Cumberland County

Patti Smith
Chair of Commissioners

Tom Tyler
Vice Chair of Commissioners

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE NNEPRA PORTLAND PASSENGER RAIL STATION RELOCATION

WHEREAS, the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) has completed a comprehensive Site Alternatives Analysis Summary Report evaluating three sites for the relocation of the Portland Transportation Hub Amtrak Downeaster station to eliminate an operational bottleneck occurring due to the location of the current station; and

WHEREAS, the current station location requires a time-consuming, 15-minute backup maneuver for all trains traveling through Portland, which severely limits operational efficiency, increases travel times, and restricts future service expansions to central and northern Maine; and

WHEREAS, the relocation to a mainline platform will eliminate this operational bottleneck, reduce regional carbon emissions by shortening idling and transit times, and lower overall long-term transit operational costs; and

WHEREAS, NNEPRA's feasibility planning report has identified a preferred mainline location known as "Site 3," which is near the Fore River Campus that optimizes regional accessibility, maintains strong multi-modal transit connections, and aligns with local municipal zoning goals; and

WHEREAS, an alternate location known as "Site 2" of the report proposes to locate the station adjacent to the Cumberland County Jail, resulting in the station perimeter coming within 39-feet of the Jail, impacting Jail security and facilities operations of the Jail; and

WHEREAS, the proposal to locate the station at "Site 2" implicates County-owned property; and

WHEREAS, the Cumberland County Sheriff, through his June 8, 2026 letter, expresses significant concerns with such a close placement of the station to the Jail; and

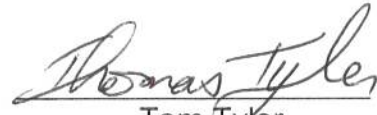
WHEREAS, the County Commissioners have reviewed information related to the site analysis and received a presentation by NNEPRA on the site location(s).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Cumberland County strongly opposes the location of a passenger rail station at the proposed station location known as "Site 2" in the alternative's analysis undertaken recently by the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority as it would unreasonably interfere with the operations of the Cumberland County Jail located immediately adjacent to such proposed location.

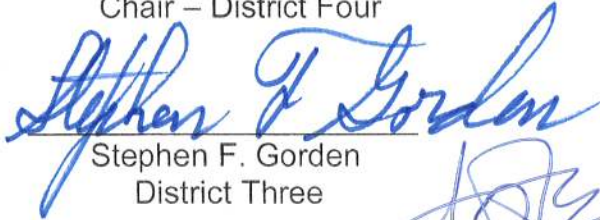
Be it Further Resolved: Cumberland County opposes any efforts to transfer County-owned land to NNEPRA or any other organization for the purpose of locating a passenger train station at so-called "Site 2" of NNEPRA's alternatives analysis.



Patti Smith
Chair – District Four



Tom Tyler
Vice Chair – District Two



Stephen F. Gorden
District Three



Jean-Marie Caterina
District One



James F. Cloutier
District Five