



OVERCOMING IMPEDIMENTS NORTHEAST MEGAREGION

The Northeast has the most extensive regional rail network in the country. However much of this system is the legacy of investments made by private rail operators in the first half of the 20th century, and today is overcrowded and outmoded. It also leaves many older mid-sized cities with inadequate service, or no service at all. Many of these places are former manufacturing centers that have lost their employment base and today have high concentrations of unemployed and under-employed residents.

This project will build on previous work by Professors Taylor and Yaro that explored the potential to expand and modernize these systems. It will identify new roles for Metropolitan Planning Organizations, state Departments of Transportation and metropolitan transportation authorities in planning, priority setting and promoting greater economic and social accessibility for megaregion-scale transportation investments in the Northeast Megaregion.

A major focus of the project will be on the Northeast's extensive regional rail network and opportunities to modernize and expand this network. Additionally, a special focus of this research will be on the impacts that innovations in transportation technology and commuting patterns could have on the utility of regional rail systems. For example, will the growth of shared mobility and automated vehicles reduce or eliminate the "first and last mile" challenge for regional rail riders? Will the increase in telecommuting make it possible for riders to commute one or two days a week?

This project will also examine strategies to improve project finance and delivery for major investment proposals for this system.

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Overcoming Impediments and
High Costs for Infrastructure
Projects in the Northeast
Megaregion (#CM2-16)

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Project Information Form:

[http://sites.utexas.edu/cm2/](http://sites.utexas.edu/cm2/files/2018/03/Year-1Marilyn-Taylor-Robert-Yaro-Overcoming-Impediments-and-High-Costs.pdf)

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