

How Trains Link East Coast Megalopolis

By David Alff, SUNY at Buffalo

Over nearly two centuries, the tracks linked rival port cities to create the Northeast Corridor. It's a bond that will only strengthen with federal investments in passenger service.

The Northeast Corridor is America's busiest rail line. Each day, its trains deliver 800,000 passengers to Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, and points in between.

The Northeast Corridor is also a name for the place those trains serve: the coastal plain stretching from Virginia to Massachusetts, where over seventeen percent of the country's population lives on less than two percent of its land. Northeasterners ride the corridor and live there too.

Like "Rust Belt," "Deep South," "Silicon Valley," and "Appalachia," "Corridor" has become shorthand for what many people think of as the Northeast's defining features: its brisk pace of life, high median incomes, and liberal politics. In 1961, Republican Senator Barry Goldwater of Arizona wished that someone had "sawed off the

Eastern Seaboard and let it float out to sea." In 2016, conservative F. H. Buckley disparaged "lawyers, academics, trust-fund babies, and high-tech workers, clustered in the Acela Corridor."

As a scholar of language and literature, I'm interested in what words can teach us about places. My new book, *The Northeast Corridor*, shows how America's most important rail line has shaped the Northeast's cultural identity and national reputation for almost two hundred years. In my view, this bond between transit and territory will only strengthen as federal investments in passenger service draw more Northeasterners aboard trains.

Forming a Great Chain

The first American railroads were stubs—strap iron curiosities that hauled marble, granite, and coal in winter months when canals froze. It was not until 1830 that the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad opened the nation's first public passenger line.

Railway mania ensued. Within a few years, trains were crisscrossing the Eastern Seaboard. A



new periodical, *The Railroad Journal*, predicted that tracks would one day form a "great chain which, is in our day to stretch along the Atlantic coast, and bring its chief capitals into rapid, constant, and mutually beneficial relation."

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This initial phase offers early-stage subcontracting opportunities, including trucking/hauling, pipe inspection, pipe testing, material/compaction testing, erosion and sedimentation control, flagging, traffic control, seeding, restoration, construction materials supply, temporary facilities, cleaning services, photography/video services, electrical, and bypass pumping. Certified DBE firms are strongly encouraged to express interest.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact SHJV's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/Vet/Disabled

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Design-Build Services for LIRR West Side Yard Flood Mitigation Measures

MTA Construction and Development Contract No. 6401

Bid Date: August 22, 2025

Description of project:
Design, furnish, construct, and install concrete perimeter flood walls, seepage cut-off barriers below the concrete flood walls, flood gates, deployable flood barriers, sump pumps, a tide gate chamber, drainage system improvements, workable aisles and a diesel generator, an automatic transfer switch, ancillary electrical equipment, and required communications.

This project will develop flood protection solutions for the West Side Yard in order to prevent and mitigate flooding of the LIRR Tunnels. The flood protection along the WSY perimeter will be accomplished via a combination of permanent flood walls and deployable flood barriers.

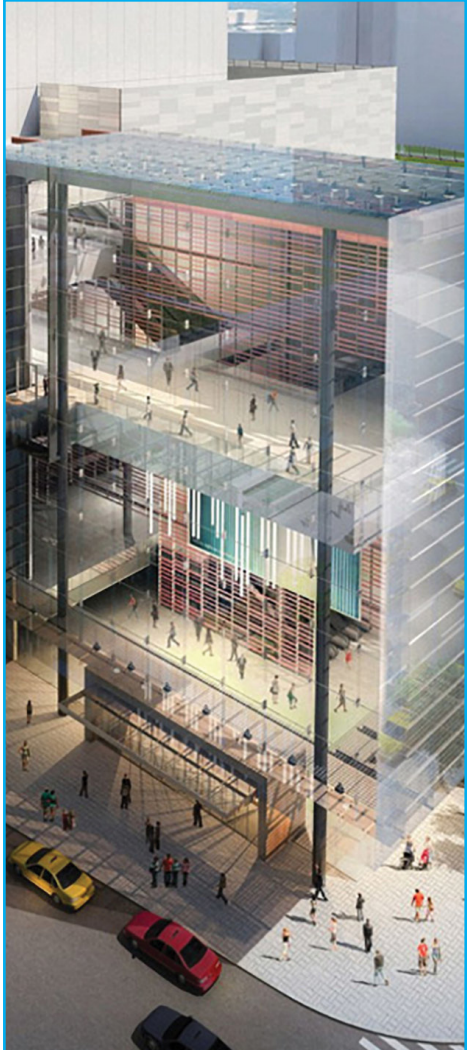
Many bidding opportunities are available: deep foundations, minipiles, jetgrout, sheeting, rebar installation, concrete supply, site work, electrical work, painting, paving, curb and sidewalk, site utilities.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Diversity and Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

Learn More

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National Minority Supplier Development Council



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VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2025

Federal (WOSB) Certification: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Webinar

Tuesday, August 19, 2025, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm

Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration

Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1123667883889>

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar

Wednesday, August 20, 2025, 10:30 am–12:00 pm

Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration

Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. For this and other events, one goal is to better address the needs of attending current and soon-to-be business owners. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.sba.gov/event/65188>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar

Thursday, August 28, 2025, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm

Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration

Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov

Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting.