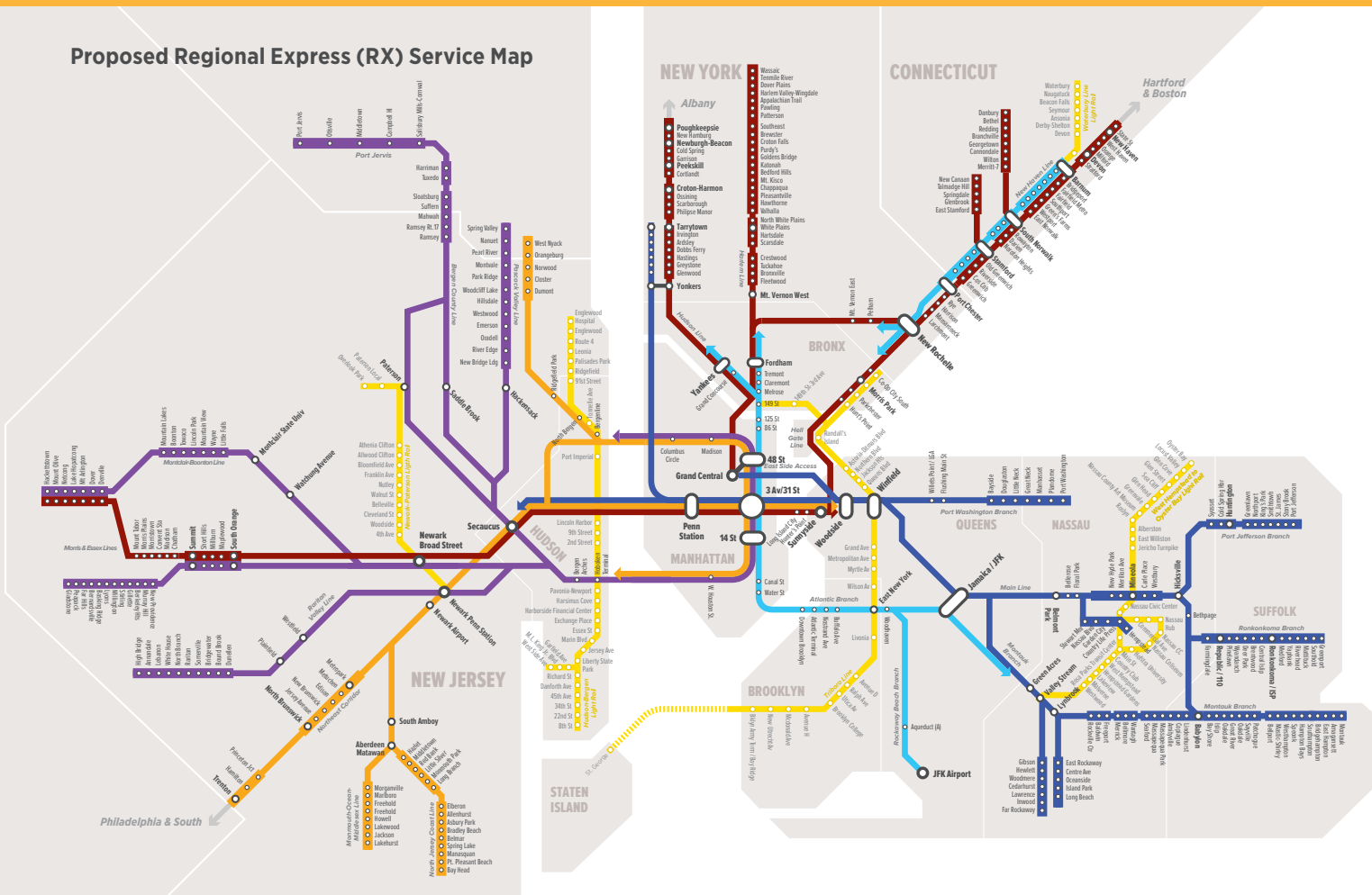


T-REX: The Trans-Regional Express

Unified Regional Rail for a Thriving, Equitable Future

Proposed Regional Express (RX) Service Map



What is T-REX?

Trains Regional Express (T-REX) proposes a strategic set of investments, phased over the next few decades, to unify and expand the tri-state area's three commuter rail systems in order to vastly improve mobility throughout the region. The plan also calls for changing how regional rail service is provided, including creating more frequent "show-up-and-go" service for inner areas.

T-REX would create three complementary levels of service:

- ▶ **The Metro (M)** would provide new, rapid transit-like service in New York City and its core suburbs.
- ▶ **The Regional Express (RX)** would enhance today's commuter rail system with a greater number of station stops, and more reliable and efficient service.
- ▶ **The Trans-Regional Limited (TRL)** would provide new intra-regional service that would connect regional hubs and extend beyond the tri-state commuting territory to adjoining cities, including Philadelphia, Albany, New Haven, and Hartford.



Today's commuter rail system is divided, and failing to meet the needs of our growing region.

The tri-state area's three rail systems—Long Island Rail Road, New Jersey Transit, and Metro-North Rail Road—all act independently of each other. With separate operations, fare structures and equipment, each railroad optimizes for its own service. This comes at the expense of those commuter rail riders or potential riders who need better, more comprehensive service.

These three commuter rail systems were designed more than a century ago to get rush-hour travelers in and out of Manhattan when the region was very different than it is today. With the number of off-peak trips and reverse commutes growing, it is more important than ever to provide direct service to job centers and hubs outside of Manhattan, and more trains throughout the day.

Unifying the region's three commuter rail lines would increase capacity, expand travel options, and reduce travel times. Other metropolitan areas like London, Paris, and Tokyo already have or are developing fully-integrated transit systems. Our region needs the same to remain competitive.

T-REX will help regional residents save time and money

Paterson

The Bronx Williams Bridge

North Bergen

Midtown West

34 min

Travel time reduced from 72 minutes to 34 minutes

Columbus Circle

from 72

48th St/3rd Ave/GCT

Midtown East

11 min

from 50

Travel time reduced from 50 minutes to 11 minutes

Lower Manhattan

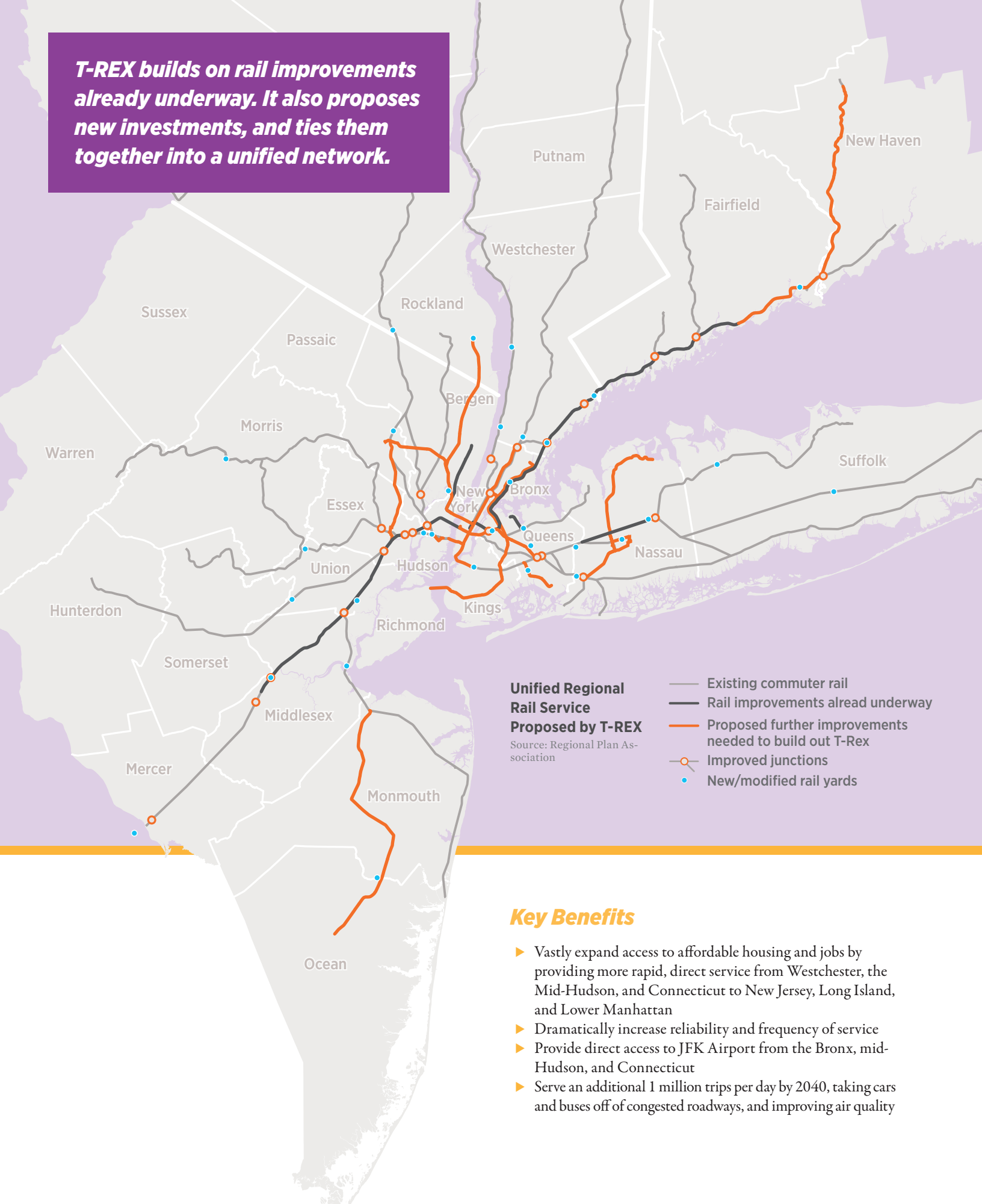
28 min

from 65

Travel time reduced from 65 minutes to 28 minutes

Water St

T-REX builds on rail improvements already underway. It also proposes new investments, and ties them together into a unified network.



Key Benefits

- ▶ Vastly expand access to affordable housing and jobs by providing more rapid, direct service from Westchester, the Mid-Hudson, and Connecticut to New Jersey, Long Island, and Lower Manhattan
- ▶ Dramatically increase reliability and frequency of service
- ▶ Provide direct access to JFK Airport from the Bronx, mid-Hudson, and Connecticut
- ▶ Serve an additional 1 million trips per day by 2040, taking cars and buses off of congested roadways, and improving air quality

Why T-REX?

Promote Equity

T-REX would foster a more equitable region by creating and expanding commuter rail service to transit-starved areas of the tri-state. A unified system with higher ridership would allow more flexibility with fare policy, including pricing intra-city trips on par with the subway. Compared to today's limited system, T-REX would be accessible and affordable to those of all income levels in that it would allow more people to reside in quality housing and still have easy commutes to work.

Improve Human Health

By shifting people from cars to rail, T-REX would improve air quality. Good local planning around train stations can also encourage more walking and biking to transit, further increasing health benefits. More frequent and reliable train service would also lessen the chronic stress caused by commuting gridlock traffic or depending on unreliable transit, and improve access to hospitals and doctor's offices.

Strengthen Climate Resiliency

In the future, low-lying areas along the Hudson River, the Long Island Sound, Lower Manhattan, and Hoboken may be susceptible to damage caused by flooding. T-REX provides flexibility of rerouting trains in the event of storm surge and sea-level rise.

Spur Economic Growth

T-REX would give residents greater access to housing and jobs, increasing their ability to live affordably while still being within a reasonable commute of a good job. Expanding transit service would also increase the labor pool available to employers, boosting their economic competitiveness as well. Expanded and better regional rail would effectively put more money back into the pockets of residents, while allowing businesses access to the best possible talent pool. Both would help spur more equitable economic growth.

Increase Connectivity and Capacity

T-REX would promote connectivity by creating through-running service between regional centers. The plan would relieve pressure on existing roadways that are at or near their maximum capacities by causing a shift of approximately 400,000 daily work trips from cars to rail. New train capacity would help to reduce the rail system's physical wear and tear, eliminate bottlenecks and chokepoints, and increase flexibility of service.

Learn more: This factsheet summarizes an 85-page report released in 2018 by the Regional Plan Association (RPA). For the full report, please visit rpa.org/publication/trans-regional-express-t-rex.

Regional Plan Association is an independent, not-for-profit civic organization that develops and promotes ideas to improve the economic health, environmental resiliency and quality of life of the New York metropolitan area. We conduct research on transportation, land use, housing, good governance and the environment. We advise cities, communities and public agencies. And we advocate for change that will contribute to the prosperity of all residents of the region. For more information, please visit rpa.org.

