



Amtrak Northeast Corridor Improvement Project Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island

Date of Performance: 1995–2000

Client: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation

Beginning in 1995, PAL assisted the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) in meeting its Section 106 obligations for the Northeast Corridor Improvement Project (NECIP). The project involved implementation of the United States's first high-speed rail program, and required the installation of an overhead catenary system; construction of electrical switching, paralleling, and substations; and raising bridges or lowering tracks at 40 locations along a 156-mile section of the Northeast Corridor, from New Haven, Connecticut to Boston, Massachusetts.

Over the course of five years, PAL was responsible for ensuring compliance with stipulations contained in Memoranda of Agreement among Amtrak, the FRA, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPO) in Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. PAL prepared mitigation materials for historic architectural resources, including HABS/HAER documentation packages for 10 historic bridges, eight historic districts, and five railroad stations. PAL architectural historians coordinated consultation with the SHPOs regarding a number of other project impacts, including the demolition of two historic bridges in Rhode Island, the installation of catenary and barriers on 20 historic bridges, and the construction of pedestrian overpasses at Old Saybrook and New Haven.

PAL archaeologists supervised the stabilization of three historic cemeteries including boundary delineation, gravestone restoration, and reinterment of one grave. In addition to cemetery work, PAL archaeologists conducted investigations at proposed construction sites and monitored construction of paralleling stations and underground feeder lines.



Pawtuxet River Bridge, Cranston, RI

The final mitigation task for the project was the publication of a professionally designed educational booklet to give readers an understanding of the significance of the New Haven to Boston rail line and the history of rail travel in the Northeast. The document provides a history of the line from the early nineteenth century to the present and descriptions of the extant historic rail-related resources, including railroad stations, maintenance and service facilities, signals and switches, bridges, and rail-related businesses and industries that are found along its route.

PAL SERVICES

- **SECTIONS 106 AND 110 CONSULTATION**
- **ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**
- **HISTORIC CONTEXT DEVELOPMENT**
- **LARGE FORMAT PHOTO-DOCUMENTATION**
- **NATIONAL REGISTER EVALUATIONS**
- **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**