East-West Rail (High Speed Rail)

**DESCRIPTION**
The East-West Rail connects Western Massachusetts communities with central and eastern cities via fast, frequent, and affordable passenger rail service. This rail service would increase transit connectivity across the state, enhance mobility, and reduce highway congestion.

**BENEFITS**
An efficient, reliable high-speed rail service connecting Springfield and Pittsfield with Worcester through to Boston would create substantial social and economic benefits. Investing in this long-awaited rail service will create workforce opportunities in construction, engineering, and public transportation. The program also provides significant benefits to the public in the form of congestion reduction, cleaner air, safer roads, and healthier lifestyles.

**RESULTS**
Supports 9.2 jobs per million dollars invested, compared to 7.8 jobs per million dollars invested in the state’s ten largest industries. Mode switching from driving to using East-West Rail unlocks $288,300 in cost savings, traffic reduction, and public health benefits per million dollars invested.

**JOBS PER MILLION INVESTED**
- East-West Rail: 9.2 Jobs
- State’s Ten Largest Industries: 7.8 Jobs

**TOP OCCUPATIONS**
1. Construction Laborers
2. Carpenters
3. Electricians
4. First-Line Construction Supervisors
5. General and Operations Managers

**BENEFITS PER MILLION INVESTED**
- **Fuel Cost Savings** $62,500: Gasoline and diesel costs avoided by reducing personal vehicle reliance
- **Travel Time Savings** $131,500: Travel time savings from lower traffic congestion and faster travel alternatives
- **Air Pollution Health Benefits** $35,900: Saved lives and avoided illnesses from improved air quality
- **Physical Activity Health Benefits** $22,400: Saved lives and avoided illnesses from increased walking and cycling
- **Traffic Accidents Avoided** $35,800: Avoided traffic accident fatalities or injuries

**Total** $288,300

These findings are an excerpt from Investing in a Better Massachusetts: An Analysis of Jobs and Community Benefits from Green Investments. Read the full report here.