

NEC FUTURE: A Rail Investment Plan for the Northeast Corridor

# Our Future on Track

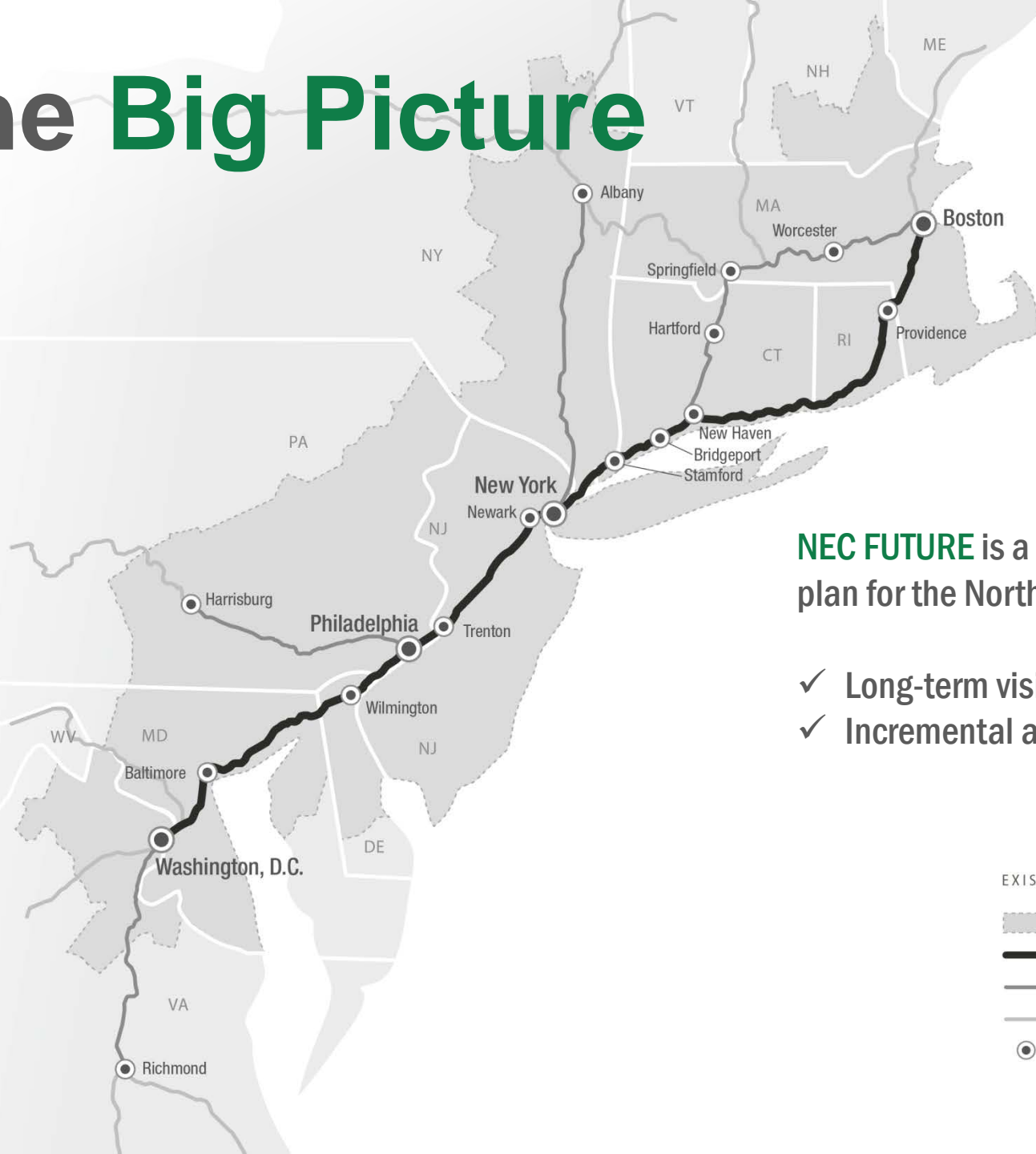


 U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Railroad Administration



**FRA Program Delivery Meeting**  
**Rebecca Reyes-Alicea**  
**October 15, 2015**

# The Big Picture



**NEC FUTURE** is a comprehensive plan for the Northeast Corridor

- ✓ Long-term vision
- ✓ Incremental approach

EXISTING:

-  Study Area
-  NEC
-  Connecting Rail Corridor
-  National Rail Network
-  Rail Station



# The Big Questions

How will the NEC keep pace with growth in the Northeast?

What role will it play in the region's future?



# Key Needs

The investment plan will address key needs:



State of Good  
Repair



Connectivity



Capacity



Performance



System-Wide  
Resiliency



Environmental  
Sustainability



Economic  
Growth

# Schedule



# The Process is Collaborative

- 8 NEC states, the District of Columbia, and adjoining states
- NEC Commission
- Passenger and freight railroad operators
- Federal and state environmental resource and regulatory agencies
- Metropolitan Planning Organizations
- Businesses and organizations
- Public

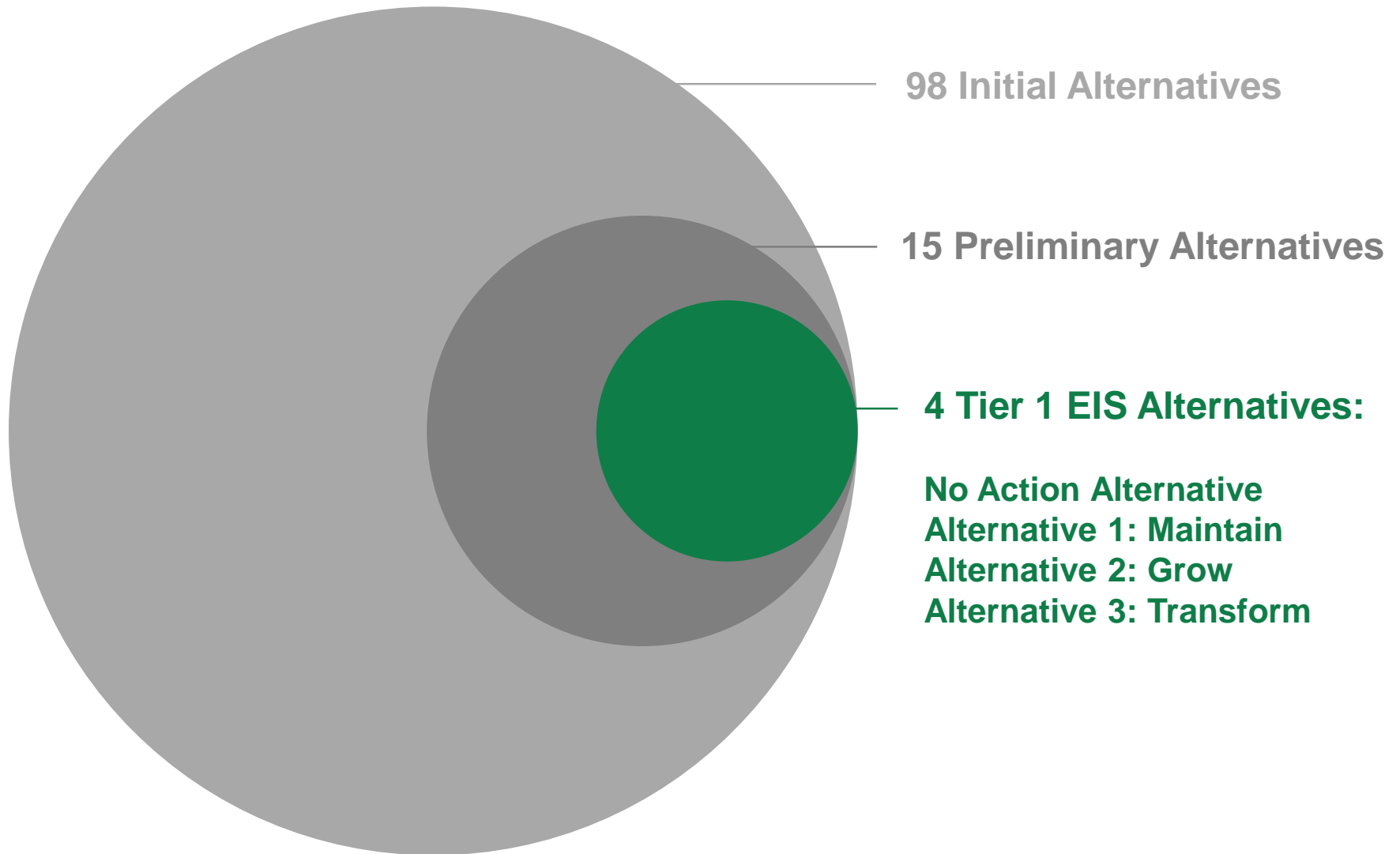






**Let's Talk  
Alternatives**

# Refining the Alternatives





# What's in an **Alternative**?

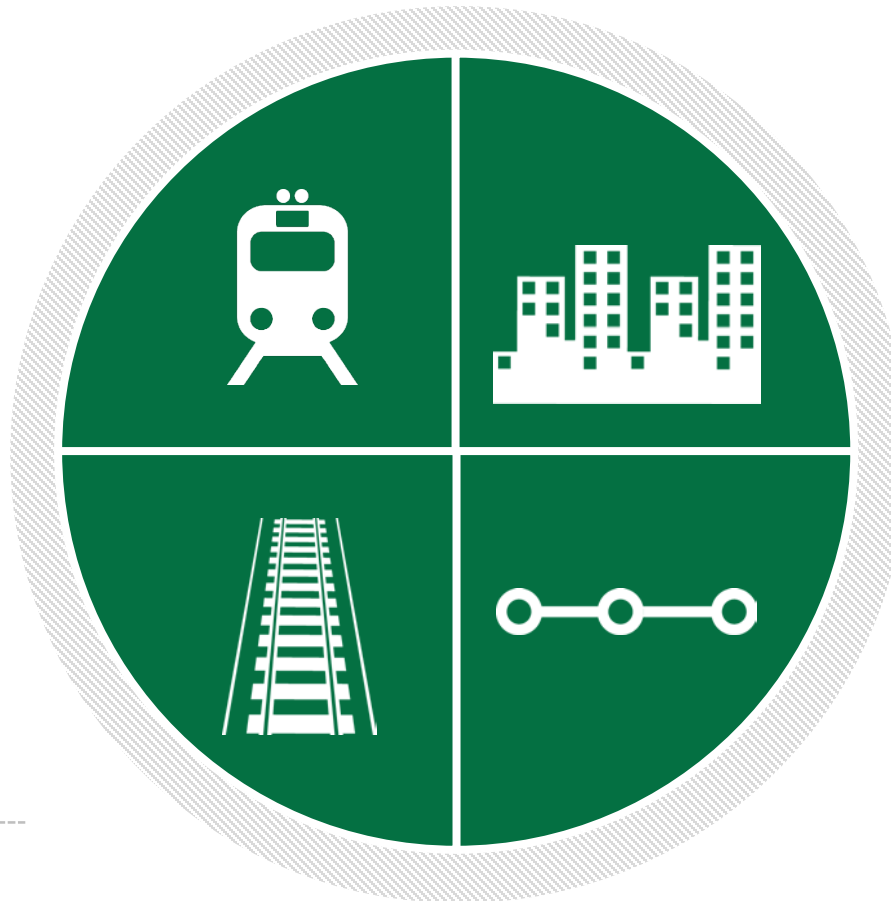
Each Action Alternative is an investment program consisting of:

The level of passenger rail service that will be provided in 2040

---

Infrastructure improvements, defined at a conceptual level, that would support the level of service identified

---



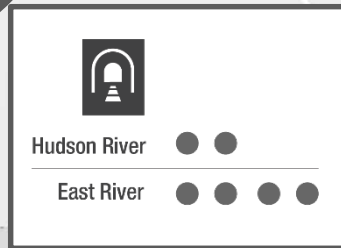
A set of geographic markets (cities) to be served by passenger rail

---

A representative route that connects these markets

---

# No Action Alternative



## Service:

- Same # of trains as today
- Service quality likely to decline
- Limited number of cities receive intercity service
- Many trips and transfers difficult to make

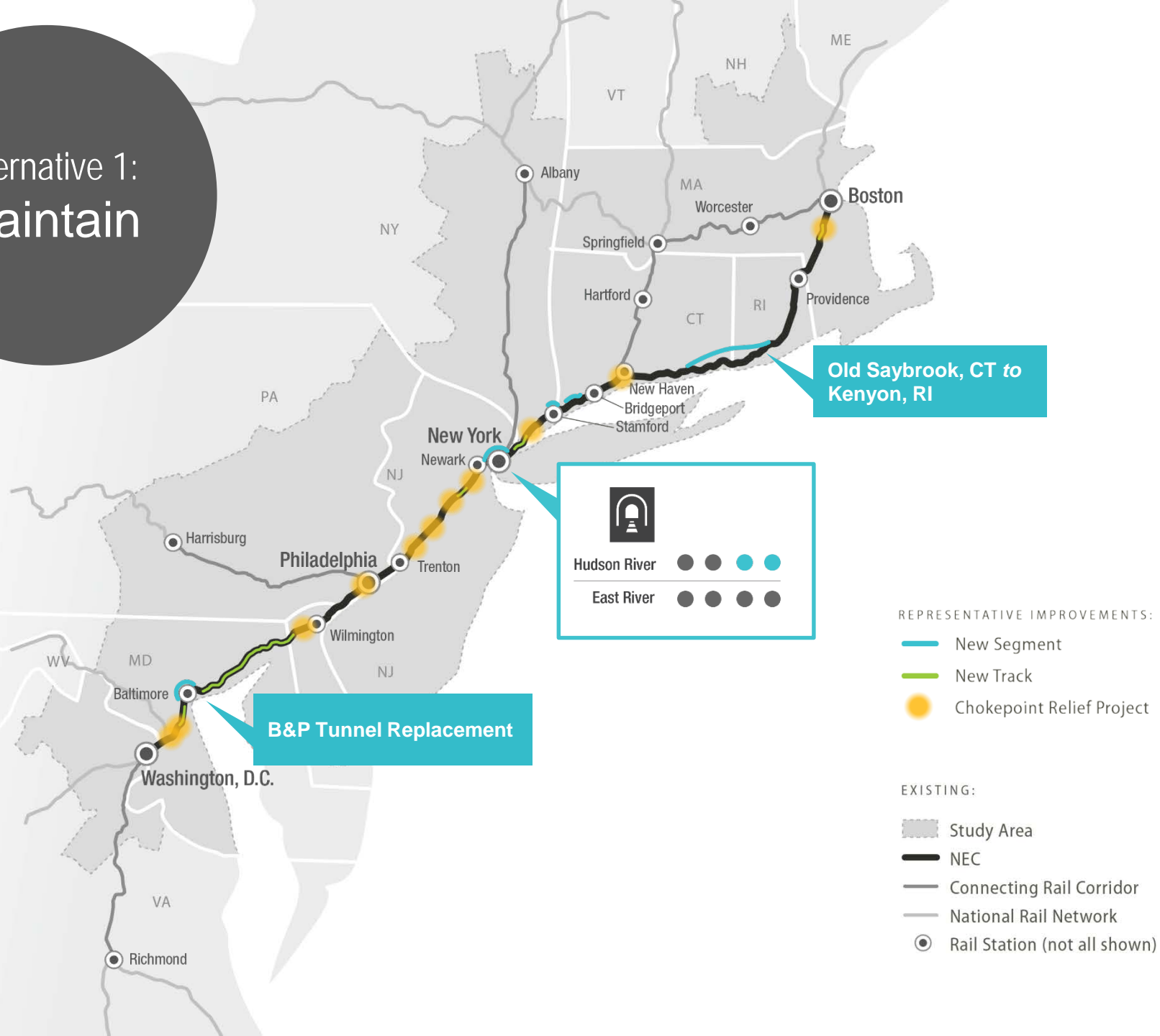
## Includes:

- ✓ Projects currently planned and programmed
- ✓ Repairs to keep the railroad operating

### EXISTING:

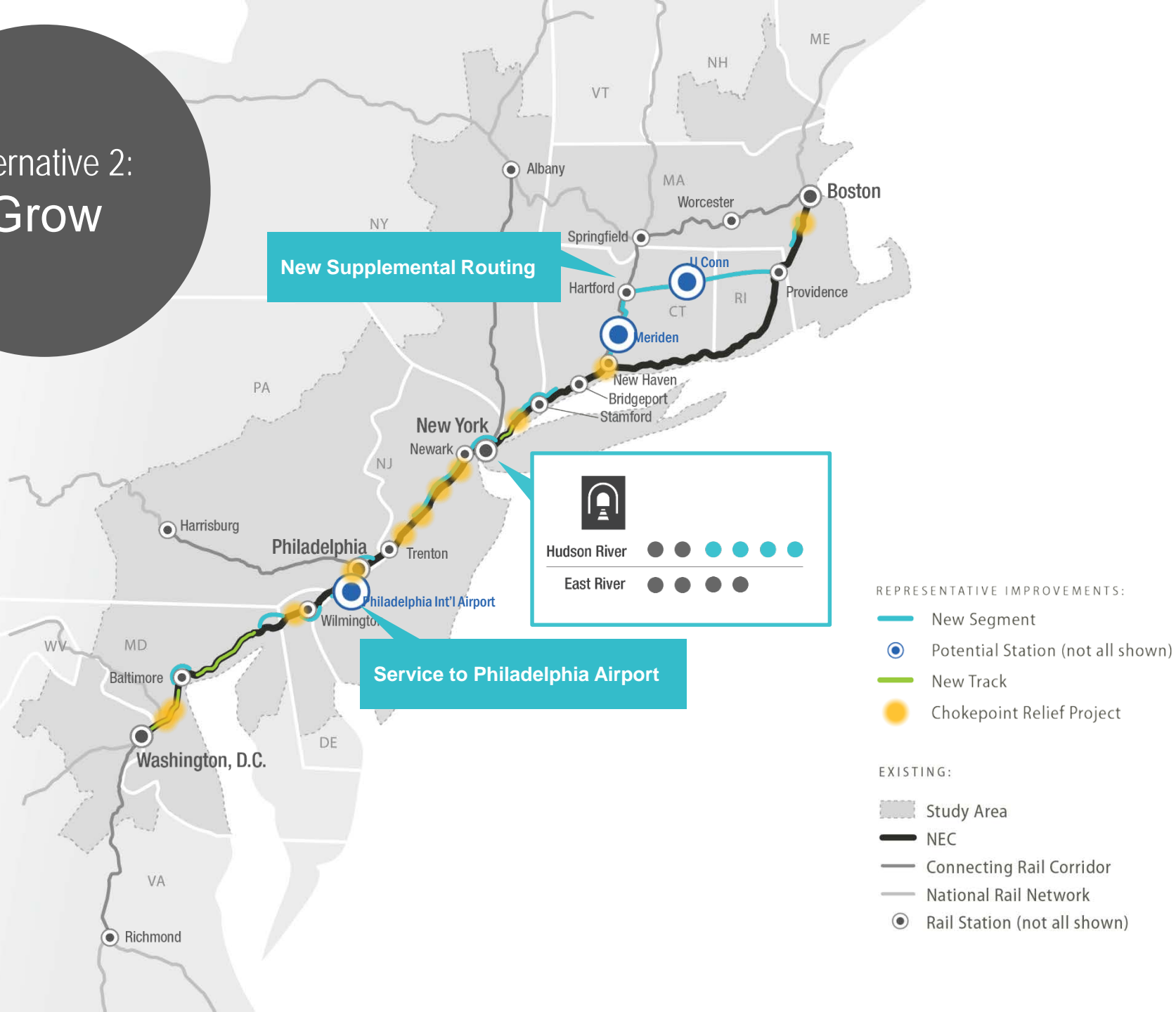
- Study Area
- NEC
- Connecting Rail Corridor
- National Rail Network
- Rail Station (not all shown)

# Alternative 1: Maintain

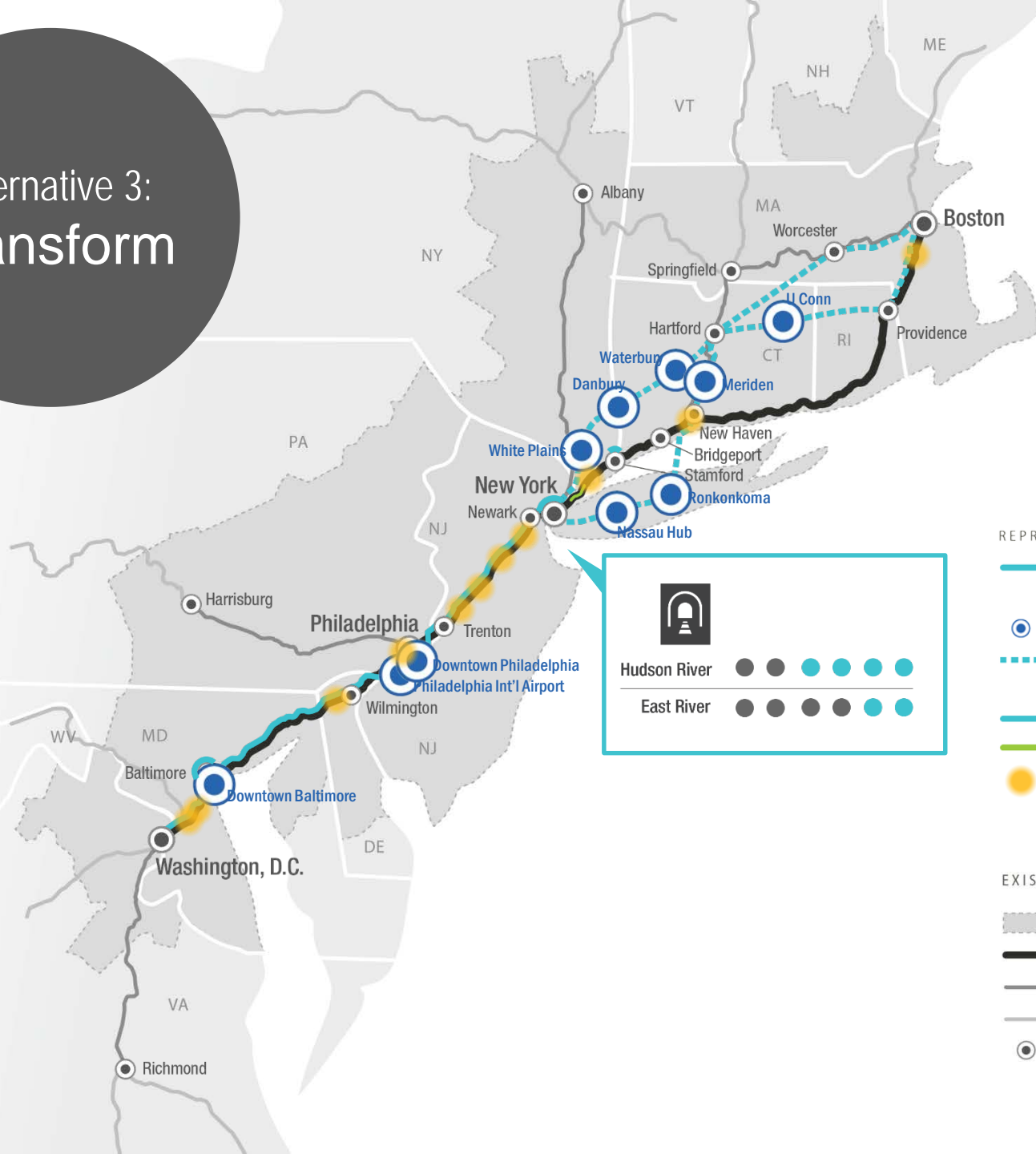




# Alternative 2: Grow



# Alternative 3: Transform



## REPRESENTATIVE IMPROVEMENTS:

- Southern Route (Second NEC Spine)
- Potential Station (not all shown)
- - - Northern Route Options (Second NEC Spine)
- New Segment
- New Track
- Chokepoint Relief Project

## EXISTING:

- Study Area
- NEC
- Connecting Rail Corridor
- National Rail Network
- Rail Station (not all shown)

# Innovative Approaches

All of the Action Alternatives include innovative approaches that improve the passenger experience. Examples include:

New Intercity  
Service

Improved  
Equipment

Easier  
Transfers

Coordinated  
Scheduling and  
Ticketing



# The Benefits of Action

## For Users

- Reach many more destinations conveniently by rail
- More frequent, reliable service – often with shorter travel times
- Greater range of ticket price options, allowing more affordable travel
- Easier travel arrangements across the NEC

## For the Region

- World class transportation to power regional growth and mobility for future generations
- Easier communication and travel among businesses in the Northeast
- Economic development of station areas and cities along the NEC
- Smaller carbon footprint for future transportation system

# Next Steps

- ☐ Complete evaluation of the alternatives
- ☐ Release Tier 1 Draft EIS
- ☐ **Public comment period and public hearings**
- ☐ Recommend a preferred alternative
- ☐ Prepare Final EIS, Record of Decision, and Service Development Plan



[www.necfuture.com](http://www.necfuture.com)

Please Stay  
Involved!