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In recent years, many options for improving RI passenger rail have been investigated. While many remain potentially viable over the long term, currently one appears most promising, while another two are worthy of close attention in the near term:

- Cross-honored fares with MBTA and Amtrak: A relatively simple and low-cost way to increase the effective speed and frequency of rail service between Providence and Boston
- MBTA Rail Vision: An opportunity to align RI and MA rail investment efforts so as to benefit residents, workers, and employers at both ends of the Providence-Boston corridor.
- Enhanced in-state transit service between Pawtucket/Central Falls and Warwick: A densely populated, transit-supportive corridor lies between Pawtucket/Central Falls to the north and Warwick (T.F. Green/Community College of RI area) to the south, which is currently underserved. Bus-based alternatives such as rapid bus or bus rapid transit (BRT) could potentially satisfy this market; however, light rail may also be an appropriate mode for this corridor.