

# STATIONS WITH STYLE

*Michael Baker designs state-of-the-art 'Hartford Line' train stations to blend into New England town settings*

The high-speed rail commute for residents between New Haven, Conn., Hartford, Conn., and Springfield, Mass., soon will get significantly better, thanks to new rail connections and state-of-the-art train stations along the "Hartford Line," designed by a team of Michael Baker International architects, engineers and planners.

The team, primarily based in the company's Rocky Hill, Conn., office, was asked to design 11 new passenger rail stations, complete with amenities that include an online parking revenue collection system, real-time passenger information displays that coordinate with both Amtrak and commuter rail operations, and an innovative, cost-saving, concealed snow-melt system to keep platforms free from snow and ice during the winter.

"This station model focuses on state-of-the-art passenger amenities, efficient connections to future transit-oriented-development (TOD) parcels, and enhanced connectivity to other transit systems, all leading to a more viable mass transportation alternative, as well as a livelier 'sense of place' within the communities they serve," says David Tudryn, project manager for Michael Baker and the chief architect of the company's northeast region.

To arrive at the stations' current overall design, the design team worked closely with individual towns along the rail corridor to develop a look that would fit well into the context of a traditional New England main street.

"The client wanted a very consistent look across the whole line, regenerating the design for each station," explains Michael Grandelski, a deputy project manager out of Michael Baker's Rocky Hill, Conn., office. "But we had to make sure the stations were integrated into each community."

Among the signature features of each station are stair and elevator towers on each side of the tracks connected to pedestrian overpasses; two 500-foot-high, level platforms from which to safely board passenger trains; waiting shelters; landscaping that includes erosion and sedimentation control; parking lot; LED lighting; platform signage; and closed-circuit security system. Michael Baker also is providing design services during construction.

The stations, including the new connections, are part of a new service to create better links from Vermont, western Massachusetts and Connecticut to the Northeast Corridor, New York City and beyond. Partners include the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts and Vermont, as well as Amtrak, MetroNorth and the Federal Railroad Administration. 🐾



Rendering of the newly designed passenger train station in Wallingford, Conn.