New, state-of-the-art, high-speed trainsets are coming to the United States. Building on Amtrak’s expertise as the only high speed rail operator in the U.S. and Alstom’s record of delivering world class, proven, high speed trainsets—Amtrak and Alstom have partnered to introduce the next generation Acela. These new trainsets will redefine the customer experience on Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor.

Scheduled to enter service on the NEC in 2021, the new trains will provide world-class accommodations and amenities, along with a smoother and even more comfortable ride. Each train will have 378 seats, with spacious, high-end comfort customers expect, including personal outlets, USB ports, adjustable reading lights at every seat and winged headrests to serve as a barrier between customers. Additional features include:

- Contemporary food service, offering easy access and greater selection
- Advanced seat reservation system providing customers the ability to reserve seats prior to departure
- Onboard information system providing real time information such as location, train speed and conductor announcements
- Accessibility features for people with disabilities
- Spacious restrooms with contactless features and automatic door access.
- Streamlined overhead luggage compartment

**Project Summary**

**Timeline:** The first trainset prototype testing in 2019 and will enter revenue service in 2021, with all trainsets in service in 2022.

**Funding:** RRIF Loan backed by NEC revenues

**Partners:** US DOT Federal Railroad Administration and Alstom
Acela Success Story

Amtrak’s Acela service is a remarkable success story. From approximately 2.5 million passengers in 2002 to approximately 3.4 million passengers in 2018, Acela has experienced significant growth in revenue and market share in the Northeast. Acela is the premium service on the nation’s busiest rail corridor.

On a typical day, 750,000 people board commuter and Amtrak trains to head to work, school and other destinations, making the NEC a major driver of the regional and national economy. Nearly one-third of the region’s jobs are located within five miles of an NEC station. The region is home to nearly a quarter of the nation’s top universities, a fifth of the Fortune 500 company headquarters, and many top hospitals.

Enhanced Safety Systems

The new Acela trains will feature cutting-edge safety systems to provide real-time monitoring and ensure a safe and comfortable ride. Interior safety details include handles integrated into the seatbacks to aid customers walking through the train, grab bars for stability and gap fillers to cover the space between the train and the platform, creating a smooth surface for entering/exiting the train.

Commitment to Sustainability

Our new trainsets have been efficiently designed to reduce energy consumption by at least 20% and feature sustainable components including seating made out of recycled leather. Amtrak is proud to expand our robust recycling program and offer a new sustainable food and beverage program onboard our Acela trains.