INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF RAIL

NEXT GENERATION HIGH-SPEED RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Major Upgrades Benefiting the Northeast Corridor

Amtrak is upgrading its infrastructure to increase track capacity, improve ride quality and offer greater reliability along the Northeast Corridor.

In preparation for the introduction of the new, next generation *Acela* fleet, Amtrak is taking steps to improve its infrastructure for all users and keep *Acela* the preferred choice for intercity travel in the Northeast. While much of the infrastructure improvements will take place on the south end of the Northeast Corridor, between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., the enhancements will benefit the full length of the corridor.

In general, Amtrak will be constructing a new side high-level platform at New Carrollton Station and increasing the number of high-level platforms at Baltimore Penn Station to allow for greater operational flexibility and expansion of train service. Amtrak is also working to upgrade the last of three tracks between Washington Union Station and Baltimore Penn Station to operate at speeds up to 125 mph and improve ride quality for a more comfortable journey. In addition, Amtrak will be making improvements to its maintenance facilities to provide best in class servicing of train equipment.

Project Summary

Timeline: The Next Generation High-Speed Rail Infrastructure Improvements will be complete in 2023

Funding: RRIF Loan backed by NEC revenues

Partner: Federal Railroad Administration

Amtrak has a full fleet of construction equipment such as its Track Laying Machine (pictured here), to aid in upgrading the railroad. An overview of the operation demonstrates the Track Laying Machine dropping new ties and replacing the rail in an effort to improve ride quality.

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PROJECT BENEFITS

Increase track capacity along Northeast Corridor

Infrastructure upgrades will allow for high-speed train operations

Provide route flexibility by adding passing opportunities

Improve on-time performance

Increase Track Capacity

In Maryland, at Baltimore Penn Station, the Next Generation High Speed Rail (HSR) infrastructure improvements include the rehabilitation of an existing platform, construction of a new platform and renewal of the overhead electrical system. These projects will increase track capacity for expanded *Acela* service, provide routing flexibility and improve the on-time performance of high-speed train operations by providing additional opportunities to allow high-speed trains to travel unimpeded.

Improve Ride Quality

In an effort to improve ride quality, Amtrak will establish an improved system for surfacing the track. In addition, Amtrak will purchase new state-of-the art equipment to aid in this effort, resulting in a more comfortable journey.

Greater Reliability

Along a 30-mile stretch of railroad between Baltimore and Washington, D.C., Amtrak will upgrade its lower speed track to high-speed standards, creating a three track capacity high-speed railroad along one of the most congested and delay-prone portions of the Northeast Corridor. Amtrak will also make minor realignments to the existing tracks. A third platform track at New Carrollton Station will be added to expand track and station capacity. This work will allow Amtrak trains to operate at higher speeds.

Amtrak is improving its maintenance facilities to provide best-in-class servicing of trainset equipment.

Learn more about this and other ways Amtrak is investing in the future of rail at amtrak.com/futureofrail