Homewood Station Accessibility Project

Historic, former Illinois Central Station building

The vintage 1923 Mission Revival building was constructed by the Illinois Central Railroad when it was the provider of passenger rail service to Homewood. The building was constructed to mimic the clubhouse at the nearby Ravisloe Country Club. Today, the station building contains the primary waiting area for Amtrak intercity passengers. In 2019, Amtrak spent $146,000 replacing the clay tile roof and making additional interior ceiling repairs.

ADA compliance work on this structure will include a new compliant walkway and ramp from Park Avenue to the main public entrance, new compliant doors at the main entrance and second doorway to train tunnel, upgraded men's and women's restrooms (doorways, stalls, sinks and fixtures), and drinking fountains.

Stairway from historic station to pedestrian tunnel to trains

Amtrak will replace the stairway and augment the stairs with an enclosed ramp, allowing customers with disabilities a path between the station building and the stairway/ramp entrance to the tunnel.

New Stairs and Elevator Controls to Access Amtrak Platform

Amtrak will demolish and rebuild the elevator and stairs to allow customers access to the train platform. The elevator controls will be upgraded to modern standards of compliance, as well as stair treads and risers. The structure will be enclosed and temperature controlled to ensure customer comfort and operability of mechanical systems.

New Amtrak Passenger Platform

Amtrak is demolishing and reconstructing a new 650-foot boarding platform to serve the six trains on the Chicago-Carbondale *Illini* & *Saluki* and Chicago-New Orleans *City of New Orleans* routes. The new platform will be eight inches above rail height to ease customer access into trains and allow easier deployment of on-train technologies (lifts or ramps depending on train type) to enable customers onto and off trains. The platform will have bright tactile edges, be covered and illuminated to enhance customer safety at night and to protect from inclement weather. The new platform will serve two tracks, allowing northbound and southbound trains to serve Homewood at the same time, providing for more Amtrak service in the future.

Budget

Amtrak has budgeted up to $15 million for this project, using capital funds granted by Congress and the Federal Railroad Administration.

Ridership

In the 12 months ending on Sept. 30, 2019 (FY 2019), 36,588 Amtrak rail passengers used the Homewood station, ranking the station at 187 out of 525 Amtrak stations in the U.S. and Canada. Direct service from Homewood is available to 20 Amtrak stations including Champaign-Urbana, Mattoon, Centralia and Carbondale in Illinois; Memphis; Yazoo City, Jackson and Brookhaven, Miss.; Hammond, La., and New Orleans. Chicago is the mid-continent hub of Amtrak, where Homewood customers can connect to more than 50 daily Amtrak trains to Midwest, East Coast and West Coast destinations.

History of ADA at Amtrak

Congress created Amtrak in 1970 to inherit the responsibility for most intercity passenger trains and operations began on May 1, 1971. Amtrak trains serve 516 stations in the U.S. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) requires that all stations in the intercity rail network be made accessible and usable by individuals with a disability. The U.S. Congress and Federal Railroad Administration have directed that a portion of Amtrak's annual capital grant be used to implement the program.

Amtrak initiated the ADA Stations Program in 2009 as a comprehensive program to make its stations ADA compliant and accessible. From 2009 through the end of Fiscal Year 2018, Amtrak has installed 192 station based mobile lifts, constructed new low-level platforms with compliant detectable warnings at 31 stations, constructed new level-with-train boarding platforms at two stations, installed detectable warnings on existing platforms at 38 stations, made parking improvements at 132 stations, restroom improvements at 49 stations, new signage at 206 stations, electronic information displays 32 stations.

ADA Station Program, 2020-2022

Amtrak, as part of its multi-year program to bring all 516 U.S. passenger rail stations into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, embarks on this project at the shared rail station in the Village of Homewood. After a design process and negotiations with the shared user at the facility, Metra, Amtrak will embark upon a project to bring the facility into compliance.

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