

Amtrak Connects US: A Vision to Grow Rail Service Across America



New or improved routes to add millions more passengers over 15 years

With a growing and diverse population, a global climate crisis and longer traffic jams, America needs a rail network that offers frequent, reliable, sustainable, and equitable train service. Amtrak has the vision and expertise to deliver it.

Our 2035 Vision

Transformative benefits

- ✓ Safely connects people and communities
- ✓ Lowers carbon emissions
- ✓ Reduces traffic
- ✓ Addresses the climate change crisis
- ✓ Provides equity across cities & regions
- ✓ Creates more jobs

New places

- ✓ Up to 160 more communities
- ✓ Multiple daily trips in 15 more states

Better service

- ✓ Up to 30+ potential new routes
- ✓ Up to 20+ existing routes with more trips

More people

- ✓ 20 million more passengers than the 32 million served in FY 2019

Amtrak's Value Proposition

Amtrak is America's Railroad

- 32 million riders in FY 2019
- 500+ communities served

Efficient operations

- Most financially efficient passenger rail operator in the U.S.
- 90%+ on-time passengers in Northeast
- Best-in-class 84% customer satisfaction

50 years of service to the country

- Created by Congress to provide passenger rail service to the country as other railroads turned to freight only.
- We have rights to access all existing rail lines for passenger trains.

Better rail service means cleaner air, less traffic, and happier people.

- Traveling on Amtrak emits up to 83% fewer greenhouse gases than driving and up to 73% fewer than flying.
- Improved rail service brings local and regional economic benefits from riders and employees who live, work, and visit in the area.
- In some cities, people spend more than 80 hours a year in traffic – that's equivalent to two weeks of vacation down the drain. Population growth will make this much worse without better alternatives like rail.
- Expanding rail service helps combat inequality in transportation.
- Amtrak can fill the gaps created by airlines and bus carriers that have steadily reduced service in many communities across the country.

Vision would expand or improve rail service for 20 million more riders.

- Population growth and future U.S. transportation needs support the development of corridor routes that could efficiently serve 160 additional diverse communities.
- Amtrak has met with stakeholders across the U.S. – state officials, mayors, businesses, and others – to identify their local needs and expectations. Our vision incorporates this input and we will work in partnership with stakeholders to grow and improve passenger rail.
- Our vision builds upon Amtrak's national network of long-distance trains, integrating new and improved corridors into our existing system.

Today's challenge: America has changed, but our rail network has not.

- Many of the country's biggest and fastest growing metropolitan areas, with diverse populations, don't have the rail service they deserve.
- Major cities like [Houston](#), [Atlanta](#), and [Cincinnati](#) have service that is simply inadequate, with trains that only stop once a day and often in the middle of the night. Other cities like [Las Vegas](#), [Nashville](#), [Columbus](#), [Phoenix](#), and [Wichita](#) don't have Amtrak service at all!
- Millions of people, including large populations of people of color, do not have access to a reliable, fast, sustainable, and affordable passenger rail option. This is neither fair nor equitable.

What we need from Congress

Significant government funding is required to support passenger rail around the world, and the U.S. is no different. We need enhanced funding and tools to build and operate these new and improved routes, including:

- ✓ **Funding** – Increased federal funding for Amtrak's National Network Grant to support operating and capital costs for new and improved corridor routes.
- ✓ **Fair Access** – A streamlined and expeditious process for accessing freight rail lines and determining reasonable capacity improvements.
- ✓ **On-Time Trains** – New enforcement tools for Amtrak's existing right to preference over freight trains to ensure our riders arrive on time.

Why Amtrak?

- Congress created Amtrak for this very purpose – to connect America by rail on behalf of the federal government.
- Amtrak has the national capabilities and expertise in place to operate these new routes – *today*.
- Amtrak is the only entity that offers a comprehensive national rail network that connects people across states.
- Amtrak has the right to access all existing rail infrastructure, the most efficient and cost-effective way to expand passenger rail service in shared corridors.

