

NEWSRELEASE

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Amtrak Upgrades Celebrated at Connersville Station All customers now can travel easier

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CONNERSVILLE, Ind. – Amtrak customers now have a smoother, brighter and more accessible journey with the completion of a \$1.9 million project at the <u>Connersville, Ind. station</u>. The Amtrak <u>Cardinal</u> travels three-days-weekly between New York and Chicago, with a stop in Connersville.

Amtrak, working with the City of Connersville, made improvements that include the construction of a new concrete platform meeting the specifications of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Other upgrades include the installation of new lighting, ramp, new connection to the public right of way and upgrades to the parking lot.

"Making our stations accessible to all customers is a priority and we're actively performing construction, renovation, repair and upgrade projects at stations across our national network," said Amtrak Vice President Dr. David Handera. "We want Connersville and all of our stations to be a welcoming and comfortable environment to all of our customers."

"The City of Connersville is overjoyed with the upgrades that have been made here in our community," said Mayor Chad Frank, who spoke at a ribbon-cutting event today. "Connersville is seeing growth in our community and we anticipate that the recent improvements to the station will encourage an increase in travelers."

Amtrak has served Connersville since 1990, when members of the local Rotary Club raised funds to erect a brick shelter along the now-improved platform. Nearby is the station built in 1914 by the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton Railroad, a building in railroad use today by CSX Transportation. The new platform harmonizes with the historic station with tint and texture.

Amtrak has invested \$770 million since 2011 in accessibility upgrades and improvement projects at 118 stations across the national network to ensure a safe, efficient, and comfortable travel experience for customers with disabilities. The improvements include repairs and upgrades to platforms, ramps and sidewalks, renovations to entranceways and restrooms, with 20 stations brought into ADA compliance last year. Another 20 stations are targeted for completion this fiscal year at a forecasted investment of \$125 million.

More>>>



Our program is advancing 143 station designs and 39 station construction projects as part of

Amtrak's ongoing commitment to providing accessibility by working toward 100% completion by

2029.

About Amtrak®

For more than 50 years, Amtrak has connected America and modernized train travel. Offering a safe, environmentally efficient way to reach more than 500 destinations across 46 states and parts of Canada, Amtrak provides travelers with an experience that sets a new standard. Book travel, check train status, access your eTicket and more through the <u>Amtrak app</u>. Learn more at <u>Amtrak.com</u> and connect with us on <u>Twitter</u>, <u>Instagram</u>, <u>Facebook</u> and <u>LinkedIn</u>.

About Connersville

The City of Connersville, established 1813, is among the oldest cities in Indiana. A center of manufacturing, agriculture, retail and health care, its location along the Whitewater River has made camping, fishing, kayaking some of the favored pastimes of the region. The seat of Fayette County, residents have always felt a strong sense of community and are strong supporters of the High School sports teams, known as the Spartans. For more information, visit <u>ConnersvilleCommunity.com</u>.

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