



# NEWSRELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Amtrak Upgrades Celebrated at Jefferson City Station** *Customers now have a more accessible path to our trains*

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. – Amtrak customers have a smoother, brighter and more accessible journey with the completion of a \$1.4 million project at the [Jefferson City station](#). The Amtrak [Missouri River Runner](#) travels between St. Louis and Kansas City with stops in Jefferson City twice daily eastbound and westbound.

Amtrak, working with the City of Jefferson, advanced a series of accessibility improvements in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) that include a new platform, ramps, signage, lighting, and guardrails, as well as a new connection to the public right of way.

Replacing the former asphalt platform is a newly constructed 325-foot-long concrete platform, eight inches above top of rail, provides a level surface for wheeled mobility device users with a tactile detectable warning system along the full platform length with a focus on passengers with vision disabilities. A new concrete ramp and landing near Jefferson Street provides an accessible path of travel to the new platform, with a second ramp located at the west end of the platform.

In consultation with the Missouri State Historic Preservation Office, LED pole-mounted light fixtures were installed on the platform and pathways to provide newly lit and safer spaces and designed to also complement the historic fabric of the site and style of the surrounding streetlights.

“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 Jefferson City and all of our stations to be a welcoming and comfortable environment to all of our customers.”

“We are well aware that as the Capital City, it is important that citizens be able to access state government and other facilities in our beautiful city. Amtrak is a critical piece of our transportation infrastructure,” said Jefferson City Mayor Ron Fitzwater, who spoke at today’s ribbon-cutting. “We are excited for the enhancement to facilities here in Jefferson City,” he added.

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Jefferson City is staffed daily by a dedicated group of volunteers using a temporary facility until the state-owned historic building normally used as a station can be reopened. Amtrak operates the *Missouri River Runner* under a contract with the [Missouri Department of Transportation](#) (MoDOT).

“At MoDOT, we are proud to have a partnership with Amtrak and communities across the state,” said MoDOT Director Patrick McKenna, as he congratulated the city and thanked Amtrak.

“This route supports thousands of jobs and generates hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity for this state,” added McKenna, who also thanked Governor Mike Parson and the Legislature for their ongoing support.

Amtrak has invested \$793 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.

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](#).

#### **Reaction:**

“I am excited to see the completion of the ramp at the Amtrak station. Amtrak provides such a valuable service to our community and the surrounding area. Giving an affordable alternative to traveling to Kansas City or St. Louis and points in between is truly a blessing to so many. Thank you for your continued service to our community,” said State Rep. Dave Griffith of Jefferson City.

#### **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 [Amtrak app](#). Learn more at [Amtrak.com](#) and connect with us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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