

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 1, 2024

## Introducing Amtrak *Borealis* trains with Expanded Service between St. Paul and Chicago via Milwaukee

New passenger train arrivals and departures in a partnership with Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois

ST. PAUL, Minn., and CHICAGO – Tickets are now available for a second daily Amtrak service between the Twin Cities and Chicago, via Milwaukee: new state-sponsored [Borealis](#) trains originate from St. Paul at midday and from Chicago in the late morning. Travelers seeking a more comfortable, sustainable and productive choice than driving will have double the current rail options, starting May 21, 2024.



Amtrak *Borealis* coach fares start at \$41 each way between St.

Paul and Chicago for adults, with [everyday discounts](#) for children ages 2-12, [students](#), seniors, veterans, military personnel and families, groups, and others.

Amtrak *Borealis* trains will offer Coach and Business Class in addition to a café car featuring regional items. Customers will enjoy wide reclining seats with ample legroom, no middle seats, free Wi-Fi, and views of the Mississippi River between St. Paul and La Crosse, Wisc., in daylight in both directions across Wisconsin.

The trains will make the current [Empire Builder](#) stops between St. Paul and Milwaukee and [Hiawatha](#) stops between Milwaukee and Chicago (see schedule below and attached). Another benefit of the Amtrak *Borealis* service is a new eastbound Amtrak origination from Ramsey County's Union Depot in St. Paul.

“A second daily passenger rail service connecting St. Paul to Chicago via Milwaukee is a welcome addition to our transportation system, providing more choices and travel flexibility for passengers,” said [Commissioner Nancy Daubenberger](#), Minnesota Department of Transportation. “We appreciate our partnerships with communities, federal, state and local governments, the host railroad CPKC, and Amtrak that were needed to get this service on-track,

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and to provide another safe, reliable transportation option. We look forward to continuing these partnerships as we work toward further building out passenger rail options in the Midwest.”

“This route includes eight stations in Wisconsin, and doubling the frequency of the service will better connect the many businesses, universities and tourist attractions along this corridor,” [WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson](#) said. “This expansion is thanks to the work WisDOT was able to do together with Minnesota, Illinois and Amtrak, as well as the opportunities provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. We will continue to work with federal and state partners to explore more passenger rail options in Wisconsin.”

“We are proud to collaborate with neighboring states and our federal partners to offer more Amtrak service in the Midwest,” said [Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman](#). “Ensuring passenger rail that’s safe, reliable and accessible is one of the many reasons Illinois continues to distinguish itself as the transportation hub of North America under Gov. JB Pritzker.”

The new service is sponsored by the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Amtrak now operates 29 state-supported routes with 18 state partners.

“Through the Federal Railroad Administration’s [Corridor Identification Program](#) we are working with grantees on dozens of other possible new Amtrak routes,” said [President Roger Harris](#). “Thanks to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, interest from state transportation departments and others for new or expanded Amtrak service across the country is at an all-time high.”

“This is a win for passenger rail expansion in America, and more importantly, it’s a win for a growing number of Americans who rely on passenger rail and benefit from it,” said [Federal Railroad Administrator Amit Bose](#). “Investments in rail have long helped Midwesterners and the region’s economy, and this new service will mean additional access for people traveling between Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois while contributing to economic growth.

“The Federal Railroad Administration applauds the strong partnership between the states and Amtrak, and through President Biden’s infrastructure package, we know even more progress is underway,” Bose added.

#### **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](#).

**About MnDOT**

Created in 1976, the [Minnesota Department of Transportation](#) (MnDOT) oversees transportation by all modes including land, water, air, rail, walking and bicycling. Its mission is to connect and serve all people through a safe, equitable and sustainable transportation system. Stay connected to MnDOT through [our Social Hub](#).

**About WisDOT**

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) was officially established in 1967. It provides leadership in the development of a safe and efficient multimodal transportation system for the people of Wisconsin and the state's many visitors. Learn more about WisDOT at [wisconsindot.gov](#) and connect with WisDOT on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) to stay up to date on the latest transportation news in Wisconsin.

**About IDOT**

The [Illinois Department of Transportation](#) (IDOT) has statutory responsibility for the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of Illinois' extensive transportation network, which encompasses highways and bridges, airports, public transit, rail freight and rail passenger systems. This vast transportation system supports the fifth largest state in the nation and more than 100 million visitors annually. [IDOT's Stay Connected](#) page serves as an interactive hub to facilitate transportation news, events, video and photo galleries, and to promote information through social media platforms targeting all transportation stakeholders.

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## New St. Paul – Chicago Amtrak Schedules: Effective May 21, 2024 Eastbound and Westbound

	St. Paul MN MSP	Red Wing MN RDW	Winona MN WIN	LaCrosse WI LSE	Tomah WI TOM	Wisconsin Dells WI WDL	Portage WI POG	Columbus WI CBS	Milwaukee WI MKE	Milwaukee Airport WI MKA	Sturtevant WI SVT	Glenview IL GLN	Chicago IL CHI
<b>EMPIRE BUILDER</b> Trains 8 and 28 inbound from west	8:50 AM	9:44 AM	11:01 AM	11:37 AM	12:16 PM	12:58 PM	1:17 PM	1:47 PM	3:05 PM	→	→	4:12 PM	4:45 PM
<b>BOREALIS</b> Train 1340 originates in MSP	11:50 AM	12:35 PM	1:40 PM	2:16 PM	2:57 PM	3:40 PM	3:58 PM	4:26 PM	5:45 PM	5:55 PM	6:08 PM	6:46 PM	7:14 PM
	CHI Chicago IL	GLN Glenview IL	SVT Sturtevant WI	MKA Milwaukee Airport WI	MKE Milwaukee WI	CBS Columbus WI	POG Portage WI	WDL Wisconsin Dells WI	TOM Tomah WI	LSE LaCrosse WI	WIN Winona MN	RDW Red Wing MN	MSP St. Paul MN
<b>BOREALIS</b> Train 1333 originates in CHI	11:05 AM	11:27 AM	12:05 PM	12:19 PM	12:39 PM	1:41 PM	2:13 PM	2:33 PM	3:17 PM	3:58 PM	4:36 PM	5:40 PM	6:29 PM
<b>EMPIRE BUILDER</b> Trains 7 and 27 originates in CHI	3:05 PM	3:29 PM	→	4:45 PM	5:55 PM	6:24 PM	6:42 PM	7:20 PM	8:04 PM	8:40 PM	9:42 PM	10:56 PM	

## Amtrak Midwestern Train Routes

