



# Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2008

## State of Iowa

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### Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates two long-distance trains through Iowa:

- The *California Zephyr* (daily Chicago-Burlington-Osceola-Denver-San Francisco Bay Area)
- The *Southwest Chief* (daily Chicago-Fort Madison-Kansas City-Los Angeles)

During FY08 Amtrak served the following Iowa locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Burlington	7,283
Creston	4,444
Fort Madison	9,307
Mount Pleasant	14,422
Osceola	17,811
Ottumwa	10,993
<b>Total Iowa Station Usage:</b>	<b>64,260</b>

### Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak expended \$179,988 for goods and services in Iowa in FY08.

### Employment

At the end of FY08, Amtrak employed 7 Iowa residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Iowa were \$497,925 during FY08.

### Expansion Planning

Amtrak Corridor Planning has delivered the results of a route feasibility study requested by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Capital construction costs were estimated at between \$32 million and \$55 million, depending on the route, to resume passenger rail service between Chicago, Rockford, Freeport, Galena and Dubuque. Ridership was estimated at 74,500 annually for the best route option, providing \$1.5 million in revenue at a \$4.4 million annual cost. Iowa officials have been briefed on the advantages of passenger rail service. Negotiations are ongoing between Iowa and Illinois on cost-sharing for the proposed service.

The success of service expansions in Illinois has helped to increase interest in the potential of passenger rail service in Iowa, including within the Iowa Department of Transportation. Iowa requested that a study of the feasibility of service between Chicago and Iowa City be conducted in conjunction with the Illinois-requested Chicago-Quad Cities study. The study results were delivered in 2008 and project infrastructure development costs along the Iowa route segment at \$32.5 million, with 76,100 additional annual riders.

Iowa DOT also has asked Amtrak to study the feasibility of further extending service west from Iowa City to Des Moines and for an extension of the Chicago-Dubuque corridor west to Waterloo.

Amtrak is a member of both the Iowa Rail Advisory Committee and the Iowa Passenger Rail Advisory Committee. The Passenger Rail Advisory Committee is tasked with providing feedback as the State develops a state-wide passenger rail plan.

### **Station Improvements**

Amtrak is working with the City of Fort Madison to relocate its station stop from the edge of town back to the historic downtown station that also is home to the North Lee County Historical Museum. The City received a \$1-million grant to finance the relocation and necessary construction to accommodate the move.

The City of Osceola constructed new railroad offices for the BNSF Railway, in exchange for the former Burlington Route depot, which is used by Amtrak. The City obtained \$500,000 in transportation grants to use for exterior, parking, platform, fencing, and lighting enhancements to the historic structure. Amtrak is working with City officials to bring these plans, including future interior improvements, to fruition. A new information kiosk, providing train schedules, ticketing, safety and security information, and an enhanced level of Amtrak brand visibility was installed at the Osceola station. The Jefferson Lines intercity bus service has joined Amtrak at the Osceola station, creating a truly intermodal station.

At Creston, Amtrak currently shares space in a BNSF Railway building that was built by the Burlington Route in 1968 to replace its adjacent, older, larger depot. The city later meticulously restored the old depot to serve as the City Hall. The City of Creston has asked Amtrak to work with the City and BNSF Railway to relocate to the old depot. Amtrak provides engineering consultation services at no charge to communities developing or improving station facilities.