



Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2011

State of Iowa

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 FY11 Amtrak served the following Iowa locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Burlington	7,285
Creston	4,229
Fort Madison	7,944
Mount Pleasant	13,034
Osceola	14,891
Ottumwa	10,497
Total Iowa Station Usage:	57,880

(down 15.8% from FY10*)

*California Zephyr service east of Denver was greatly impacted by flooding and traffic congestion during FY11.

Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak placed orders valued at \$213,945 for goods and services in Iowa in FY11.

Employment

At the end of FY11, Amtrak employed 3 Iowa residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Iowa were \$467,030 during FY11.

Expansion Planning

The Iowa Department of Transportation was awarded a \$230 million grant from the federal High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail grant program in 2010 for development of new passenger rail service connecting Iowa City and the Quad Cities (Iowa and Illinois) with Chicago. Amtrak provided staff resources to support the application submitted by the Iowa and Illinois Departments of Transportation. The grant would contribute to the cost of track rehabilitation, establish a new rail-to-rail connection, install a new signal system, finance the acquisition of rolling stock, and support station development. In

2010, Iowa DOT sought from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) permission to proceed with a phased development of service along the corridor. The FRA granted this request, allowing Illinois to proceed with development of the corridor between Chicago and Moline, Illinois, while Iowa continues to study service feasibility from Moline into Iowa, through Iowa City and Des Moines to Council Bluffs (across from Omaha). Iowa was awarded \$2 million from the FRA for this planning work.

Illinois DOT (IDOT) has undertaken further study to define the best route for new passenger rail service between Dubuque and Chicago. In 2007, Amtrak Policy and Development delivered the results of a route feasibility study requested by IDOT that predicted ridership of 74,500 annually, on one daily round-trip between Dubuque and Illinois cities to Chicago.

Amtrak is a member of both the Iowa Rail Advisory Committee and the Iowa Passenger Rail Advisory Committee. The Passenger Rail Advisory Committee provides feedback on the state's ongoing passenger rail development plans.

Station Improvements

Amtrak is working with the City of Fort Madison to relocate its *Southwest Chief* stop from an industrial area in the western part of the city back to the historic downtown station, which also is home to the North Lee County Historical Museum. The City has secured \$3.2 million in grants and commitments from several sources, including the DOT, BNSF Railway, Amtrak, and the regional riverboat commission, to finance the relocation and necessary construction to accommodate the move. The historic Santa Fe depot and adjacent freight house will be elevated above the 500-year flood stage, the interior will be renovated, and a new ADA-compliant passenger platform will be constructed. The former Santa Fe depot is very close to the Mississippi River, separated by a park and the railroad.

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's *California Zephyr*. 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 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. Exterior stabilization and rehabilitation work has been completed. The City seeks additional grants to pave the parking lot and construct a bus loading area.

Amtrak donated the cost of paint to the local advocacy group Friends of the Burlington Depot, in their ongoing effort to restore the municipally-owned, former Burlington Route depot. Friends of the Depot organized a volunteer painting day to spruce up the depot, in their quest to return the depot to the center of civic life in town served by the *California Zephyr*.