



## Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2014

# State of Wisconsin

### Amtrak-Wisconsin partnership

- *Hiawatha Service* – seven daily round trips, Milwaukee-Chicago
- Additional service is being studied
- Over 56,000 Wisconsin residents are members of the Amtrak Guest Rewards frequent user program

### Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates one long-distance train through Wisconsin, the *Empire Builder* (daily Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul-Seattle/Portland via Columbus, Portage, Wisconsin Dells, Tomah, and La Crosse), and the *Hiawatha Service*, with seven daily round-trips daily on the Milwaukee-Chicago corridor.

During FY14 Amtrak served the following Wisconsin locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
<a href="#">Columbus</a>	12,962
<a href="#">La Crosse</a>	24,036
<a href="#">Milwaukee</a>	596,415
<a href="#">Milwaukee Airport</a>	159,869
<a href="#">Portage</a>	5,847
<a href="#">Sturtevant</a>	70,341
<a href="#">Tomah</a>	9,426
<a href="#">Wisconsin Dells</a>	12,742
<b>Total Wisconsin Station Usage:</b>	<b>891,638</b>

(down 3.9% from FY13)

### Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak spent \$19,287,168 on goods and services in Wisconsin in FY14. Most of this was in the following locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Brookfield	\$ 4,467,368
Fox Point	\$ 1,307,722
Glendale	\$ 4,581,042
Menomonee Falls	\$ 1,095,386
Milwaukee	\$ 5,892,809

## Employment

At the end of FY14, Amtrak employed 66 Wisconsin residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Wisconsin were \$4,739,030 during FY14.

## PRIIA Section 209 and State-Assisted Services

The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-432) required, by October 2013, an equitable arrangement of cost sharing between Amtrak and state or public agency partners that provide funding for short-distance, intercity train services. Agreements were reached with all parties, including Wisconsin, by the deadline, and the services continued to run without interruption.

The State of Wisconsin, in partnership with the State of Illinois, funds the operation of seven daily, round-trip *Hiawatha Service* trains between Milwaukee and Chicago. With seven frequencies in each direction daily, the service is the most heavily used Amtrak route in the Midwest.

Amtrak worked with the several Midwest state partners, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, and Wisconsin, to bring complimentary AmtrakConnect Wi-Fi service to customers on all short-distance corridors in those states, in 2014.

## Expansion Planning and Service Improvements

**Additional Chicago-Twin Cities Service:** Amtrak is conducting an analysis for the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation of potential ridership, revenue, and operating costs for a second, daily, state-supported round-trip between St. Paul-Minneapolis and Chicago, supplementing the existing *Empire Builder* long-distance train. The report also will provide a “high-level” examination of capital start-up costs, such as equipment acquisition and infrastructure improvements needed to accommodate the additional operation.

Along with this study, the Federal Railroad Administration announced that the existing route is the preferred alignment for high-speed service between St. Paul and Chicago. This determination allows the next phases of project development to begin, which are completion of an environmental impact statement and preliminary engineering.

**Additional Hiawatha Frequencies:** The addition of three *Hiawatha* frequencies daily in each direction between Chicago and Milwaukee is in very preliminary discussions. This would make for a total of ten daily trains in each direction. Additional frequencies likely would be phased in one at a time in coming years.

## Station Improvements

- **Columbus:** Amtrak is partnering with Wisconsin DOT, CP Rail, and local businesses to rehabilitate the parking lot and walkway areas around the Columbus station. Separately, Amtrak will be rehabilitating certain aspects of the station to gain ADA-compliance and greatly improve the customer waiting experience. Work is expected to begin and conclude in early 2015.

- **Milwaukee:** Amtrak is continuing to work with Wisconsin DOT on their efforts to rebuild the existing train shed and platforms at the Milwaukee Intermodal Station to provide a safer, healthier, more modern, experience. Plans call for a mezzanine to be constructed over the tracks, with escalators and elevators connecting to new, ADA-compliant boarding platforms. Construction is expected to begin late in 2014.

# AMTRAK ROUTES IN WISCONSIN

**TRACK OWNERSHIP**

 Amtrak	 NS
 UP	 CP
 BNSF	 CN
 CSX	 Other

