



# Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2010

## 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 FY10 Amtrak served the following Iowa locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Burlington	8,744
Creston	4,803
Fort Madison	7,656
Mount Pleasant	16,063
Osceola	19,095
Ottumwa	12,383
<b>Total Iowa Station Usage:</b>	<b>68,744</b>

### Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak placed orders valued at \$88,585 for goods and services in Iowa in FY10.

### Employment

At the end of FY10, Amtrak employed 5 Iowa residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Iowa were \$403,615 during FY10.

### Expansion Planning

The Iowa Department of Transportation was awarded a \$230 million grant from the federal High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail grant program 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. Pending the necessary successful completion of a service outcomes agreement between the states, host railroads, and Amtrak, construction can begin toward a goal of service over the complete route by 2015.

Amtrak also supported an Iowa application to the Federal Railroad Administration for \$2 million for further planning work on an extension of the proposed Iowa City route through Des Moines to Council Bluffs and Omaha and \$44 million for capacity upgrades to improved traffic flow along the route of the *California Zephyr* through the southern part of the state. Iowa was awarded \$17 million from an earlier round of FRA High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail grants for new remote-controlled crossovers on the BNSF Railway's Ottumwa Subdivision, which is used by the *California Zephyr*.

Illinois Department of Transportation (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. Capital construction costs were estimated at between \$32 million and \$55 million, depending on the route, to resume passenger rail service between Dubuque and Illinois cities to Chicago. 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.

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.