



Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2016

State of Kansas

Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates one National Network train through Kansas, the *Southwest Chief* (daily Chicago-Kansas City-Los Angeles via Topeka, Newton, Dodge City, and Garden City).

During FY16 Amtrak served the following Kansas locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Dodge City	4,895
Garden City	7,378
Hutchinson	4,691
Lawrence	8,465
Newton	13,741
Topeka	10,214
Total Kansas Station Usage:	49,384

(down 0.6% from FY15)

Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak spent \$2,539,010 on goods and services in Kansas in FY16. Much of this, \$1,065,935, was in Parsons.

Employment

At the end of FY16, Amtrak employed 17 Kansas residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Kansas were \$1,267,763 during FY16.

Expansion Planning

The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) requested Amtrak study options for the return of passenger rail service along a route between Kansas City and Oklahoma City, via Newton and Wichita.

The Feasibility Report of Proposed Amtrak Service provided an analysis of potential service scenarios, schedules, ridership and revenue estimates, required state operating contribution, and capital requirements,

to establish new service. Kansas sought further refinement of the initial Amtrak study and continues to investigate options for implementation. Amtrak has testified before a joint committee of the Kansas legislature on the benefits of and the railroad's experience providing passenger service under contract for state governments.

Service Improvements

Newton-Wichita-Oklahoma City Thruway Service: Amtrak actively engages with intercity motor coach operators and private charter bus companies to expand the destinations available to Amtrak passengers. Under the brand name *Amtrak Thruway*, rail customers get interline ticketing and coordinated same-station connections to destinations not served by rail, but reachable on motorbuses, ferries, and other railroads. In April 2016, Amtrak instituted *Amtrak Thruway* bus service to and from the Newton rail station providing rail customers convenient connections to Wichita and Oklahoma City. At Oklahoma City direct connections are made Amtrak *Heartland Flyer* service to southern Oklahoma and Texas destinations. Amtrak provides this service in partnership with Village Tours LLC of Wichita.

Station Development

Lawrence: Amtrak has worked with the City and a local citizens group in developing plans for acquiring the former Santa Fe Railway depot from the BNSF Railway for a thoughtful rehabilitation, returning it to its as-built, 1955 "mid-century modern" styling. Amtrak has contributed to the project by installing a new ADA-complaint boarding platform with period lighting and display kiosks with train schedules, ticketing, safety, and security information. In June 2013, Lawrence was awarded a \$1.2-million Transportation Enhancement grant through the Federal Highway Administration, funds which can be used for activities related to the preservation of historic transportation facilities, including depots. The City of Lawrence is in the process of acquiring the depot from BNSF Railway, a condition for continuation of the project.

Southwest Chief route

The BNSF Railway-owned route of the *Southwest Chief*, via Garden City, Dodge City, and Hutchinson in western Kansas was at risk of being downgraded due to changing freight traffic patterns, threatening Amtrak's ability to continue to provide service over the route at conventional speeds.

Amtrak and the cities of Garden City, Kansas, and La Junta, Colorado, spearheaded a grass roots community effort highlighting the importance of the route to communities, in an effort to raise funds for rail infrastructure upgrades to preserve the service.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) ultimately awarded a \$12.5-million TIGER grant to the Kansas Department of Transportation in September 2014. Combined with matching funds from Amtrak (\$4 million), BNSF Railway (\$3 million), Kansas DOT (\$2 million), and the cities and counties of southeastern Colorado (\$250,000), almost \$22 million was allocated towards rail infrastructure upgrades in Kansas that were completed in 2016.

In 2015, the U.S. DOT awarded an additional \$15.2-million TIGER grant to the City of La Junta, Colorado, to continue the rehabilitation of the *Southwest Chief* line. The work is underway to add approximately 39 miles of new rail and repair over 20 miles of roadbed on segments between Waldo, New Mexico, and Garden City, Kansas. Combined with additional matching funds from Amtrak (\$4 million), BNSF (\$2 million), and the states of Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico (\$1 million, each), over \$24 million has been allocated to this phase of upgrades and repairs that will be complete in 2017.

These sums represents a significant down payment on this project and will be part of a sustained effort by all stakeholders to keep the *Southwest Chief* on its current route.

AMTRAK ROUTES IN KANSAS



TRACK OWNERSHIP	
█ Amtrak	█ NS
█ UP	█ CP
█ BNSF	█ CN
█ CSX	█ Other