



Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2010 State of Minnesota

Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates one long-distance train through Minnesota, the *Empire Builder* (daily Chicago-St. Paul/Minneapolis-Seattle/Portland).

During FY10 Amtrak served the following Minnesota locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Detroit Lakes	4,792
Red Wing	10,691
St. Cloud	12,459
St. Paul-Minneapolis (Midway Station)	128,658
Staples	5,157
Winona	27,124
Total Minnesota Station Usage:	188,881

Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak placed orders valued at \$66,309,338 for goods and services in Minnesota in FY10. Most of this was in these places:

<u>City</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Hamel	\$ 9,630,094
Minneapolis	\$ 53,220,648
St. Paul	\$ 2,188,352

Employment

At the end of FY10, Amtrak employed 43 Minnesota residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Minnesota were \$2,934,292 during FY10.

Station Improvements

Amtrak supports efforts by Ramsey County and the City of Saint Paul to restore passenger rail service to St. Paul Union Depot, which was opened in 1923 and closed to rail traffic in 1971. Amtrak has agreed in principle to begin service at Union Depot once necessary track work and other related investments are made. Union Depot is envisioned to be an intermodal facility that would include local transit, intercity bus, and commuter rail. In November 2010, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded the project \$35 million in "TIGER II" funding to further assist in renovation of the facility.

The Detroit Lakes depot was renovated in mid-2008, through a partnership between the White Earth Department of Transportation and Minnesota Department of Transportation. The White Earth tribe leases the building from BNSF Railway for service by White Earth Transit, Jefferson Bus Lines, and Amtrak. The \$575,000 project restored the depot to its original 1908 appearance.

The Staples Historical Society acquired the Northern Pacific depot, built in 1909, from the BNSF Railway and has begun an exterior stabilization project. The society's goals are to restore the station as a focal point of community activity, to serve as a home for the society, and maintain the building's role as a passenger rail station.

State Partnership

Amtrak supported and actively participated in efforts by the Minnesota Department of Transportation to develop a state passenger and rail freight plan, especially through involvement on the Minnesota Passenger Rail Forum and the Minnesota State Rail Plan Policy Advisory Committee.

Amtrak also remains an active participant in the East Metro Rail Capacity Study, a combined effort by the effected freight railroads, Amtrak, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, and the State of Minnesota. The goal of the study is to identify infrastructure improvements that will increase the fluidity of current freight and passenger train movements while allowing for future growth of all train operations, including high-speed intercity passenger rail and commuter services.