News Release

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MAY MARKS 19 CONSECUTIVE MONTHS OF AMTRAK RIDERSHIP GROWTH

More passengers riding long-distance trains

WASHINGTON – May marked 19 consecutive months of year-over-year ridership growth for Amtrak, was the best May ever with more than 2.6 million passengers and keeps America's Railroad[sm] on track to set another annual ridership record.

The long-distance trains have experienced year-over-year passenger increases in 18 of those 19 months, making a significant contribution to the extended streak of national ridership growth. In addition, advance reservations for summer travel indicate increased ridership on long-distance trains in June, July and August.

This strong performance is part of a long-term trend that has seen Amtrak set annual ridership records in seven of the last eight fiscal years, including more than 28.7 million passengers in FY 2010.

Comparing the first eight months of FY 2011 (October – May) to the same time period in FY 2010, national Amtrak ridership is up 6.7 percent so far this fiscal year and all three major business lines are showing gains: the Northeast Corridor up 5.3 percent, state-supported and other short distance corridors up 8.2 percent, and long-distance trains up 5.5 percent.

Northeast Highlights

On the Northeast Corridor, ridership for the high-speed *Acela Express* experienced a 5.1 percent increase in May 2011 vs. May 2010. In addition, May was the best month on record for the increasingly popular *Northeast Regional* service carrying 693,268 passengers, which represents a 10.1 percent increase over the same month last year. Amtrak state supported *Ethan Allen* (New York – Rutland, Vt.) and *Adirondack* (New York – Montreal) lines had impressive ridership gains with 24.5 percent and 21.2 percent respectively, when compared to the same time period last year. In addition, Virginia routes had sizable gains with Washington – Lynchburg at 43.4 percent and Washington – Newport News at 32.9 percent.

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Central Highlights

State-supported Amtrak services in the Central U.S. continue to post impressive gains from year-ago figures, including the *Missouri River Runner* (Kansas City – St. Louis), up 28.8 percent, *Blue Water* (Chicago – East Lansing – Port Huron) with a 22 percent increase, *Illini/Saluki* (Chicago – Champaign – Carbondale) up 23 percent and *Carl Sandburg/Illinois Zephyr* (Chicago – Quincy) with a 13.7 percent increase.

The busiest corridor in the Chicago Hub, the *Hiawatha Service* (Chicago – Milwaukee), continues on a pace to carry more than 800,000 passengers this year, with an increase of 6.7 percent in May.

West Highlights

In the West, strong ridership continued in May 2011 on all of the three California state-supported routes when compared to May 2010. The *Capitol Corridor* (Auburn – Sacramento – Emeryville/San Francisco – San Jose) was up 9.7 percent; the *San Joaquin* (Oakland/Sacramento – Bakersfield) up 12.8 percent; and the *Pacific Surfliner* (San Diego – Los Angeles – Santa Barbara – San Luis Obispo) up 4.3 percent over the same month last year. Ridership on the Amtrak *Cascades* (Eugene, Ore. – Seattle – Vancouver, B.C.) also was up by more than 6.5 percent.

National Highlights

Despite lengthy weather-related disruptions for two of the 15 trains, the overnight services reported an increase of 4.6 percent, lead by double-digit increases on the *Lake Shore Limited* (Chicago – New York/Boston), *Sunset Limited* (Los Angeles – New Orleans), *Silver Star* (New York – Miami), *Auto Train* (Lorton, Va., – Sanford, Fla.) and *Southwest Chief* (Los Angeles – Chicago).

Factors contributing to the continuing success of Amtrak include high gasoline prices which have trended higher, continued growth in business travel on the high-speed *Acela Express* trains with Wi-Fi service, the increased appeal and popularity of rail travel, and effective marketing campaigns.

The streak of 19 consecutive months of year-over-year ridership growth began in November 2009.

About Amtrak®:

Celebrating 40 years of dedicated service as America's Railroad[sm], Amtrak is the nation's intercity passenger rail provider and its only high-speed rail operator. A record 28.7 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2010 on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak operates trains in partnership with 15 states and four commuter rail agencies. Amtrak also is a strong financial performer achieving an 85 percent cost-recovery ratio in FY 2010. Enjoy the journey[sm] at Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on facebook.com/Amtrak and follow us at twitter.com/Amtrak.

Ridership Charts Attached

Amtrak Ridership

	May FY11			October-May FY11		
	Ridership			Ridership		
Northeast Corridor	FY11	FY10	% change FY10	FY11	FY10	% change FY10
Acela Express	303,827	289,206	+5.1	2,299,489	2,144,909	+7.2
Northeast Regional	693,268	629,612	+10.1	4,956,647	4,745,862	+4.4
Special Trains	450	340	+32.4	4,507	6,223	-27.6
Subtotal	**997,545**	**919,158**	**+8.5**	**7,260,643**	**6,896,994**	**+5.3**
State Supported and Other Short Distance Corridors						
Ethan Allen	3,699	2,971	+24.5	30,531	29,772	+2.5
Vermonter	6,157	5,923	+4.0	58,056	53,766	+8.0
Albany-Niagara Falls-Toronto	34,560	31,384	+10.1	266,983	235,593	+13.3
Downeaster Service	42,543	38,025	+11.9	327,450	297,409	+10.1
Shuttles (New Haven-Springfield)	32,281	31,266	+3.2	249,318	239,181	+4.2
Keystone Service	115,996	107,884	+7.5	895,067	852,412	+5.0
Empire Service (New York City-Albany)	87,782	83,521	+5.1	677,578	640,578	+5.8
Lincoln Service (Chicago-St. Louis)	43,049	48,532	-11.3	381,618	358,278	+6.5
Hiawatha Service	67,500	63,259	+6.7	525,800	493,579	+6.5
Wolverine Service	43,939	41,361	+6.2	334,694	292,167	+14.6
Illini/Saluki (Chicago-Carbondale)	26,727	21,734	+23.0	202,421	173,592	+16.6
Illinois Zephyr/Carl Sandburg (Chicago-Quincy)	19,672	17,307	+13.7	146,561	134,096	+9.3
Heartland Flyer	7,774	7,241	+7.4	51,202	46,599	+9.9
Pacific Surfliner Service	251,597	241,152	+4.3	1,781,023	1,678,481	+6.1
Amtrak Cascades Service	81,684	76,718	+6.5	522,051	527,504	-1.0
Capitol Corridor Service	152,128	138,616	+9.7	1,122,377	1,027,661	+9.2
San Joaquin Service	97,648	86,592	+12.8	678,348	635,912	+6.7
Adirondack	10,472	8,637	+21.2	73,152	66,064	+10.7
Blue Water	15,887	13,017	+22.0	119,048	94,550	+25.9
Washington-Lynchburg	15,307	10,684	+43.3	102,018	77,682	+31.3
Washington-Newport News	51,862	39,029	+32.9	350,781	292,004	+20.1
Hoosier State	3,443	2,684	+28.3	24,383	21,453	+13.7
Missouri River Runner (Kansas City-St. Louis)	17,387	13,504	+28.8	121,454	103,836	+17.0
Pennsylvanian	18,276	16,650	+9.8	136,551	134,493	+1.5
Pere Marquette	8,860	8,239	+7.5	67,408	63,610	+6.0
Carolinian	27,551	27,345	+0.8	209,646	199,399	+5.1
Piedmont Service	11,343	6,429	+76.4	94,155	50,530	+86.3
Special Trains	1,080	1,520	-28.9	32,790	33,106	-1.0
Subtotal	**1,296,204**	**1,191,224**	**+8.8**	**9,582,464**	**8,853,307**	**+8.2**
Long Distance						
Silver Star	37,125	32,942	+12.7	283,387	259,028	+9.4
Cardinal	9,899	9,430	+5.0	73,678	65,195	+13.0
Silver Meteor	31,291	31,451	-0.5	245,141	230,944	+6.1
Empire Builder	43,259	43,830	-1.3	320,796	331,124	-3.1
Capitol Ltd.	20,983	19,700	+6.5	145,508	135,104	+7.7
California Zephyr	33,770	31,049	+8.8	245,897	228,501	+7.6
Southwest Chief	32,876	29,802	+10.3	223,724	205,309	+9.0
City of New Orleans	12,248	18,653	-34.3	148,236	143,670	+3.2
Texas Eagle	25,160	24,431	+3.0	188,641	179,202	+5.3
Sunset Limited	9,312	8,208	+13.5	64,858	57,477	+12.8
Coast Starlight	36,784	35,431	+3.8	261,262	275,257	-5.1
Lake Shore Limited	36,164	31,021	+16.6	253,517	226,162	+12.1
Palmetto	18,321	17,037	+7.5	131,961	118,397	+11.5
Crescent	28,679	27,660	+3.7	200,319	189,109	+5.9
Auto Train	21,751	19,628	+10.8	172,809	161,410	+7.1
Subtotal	**397,622**	**380,273**	**+4.6**	**2,959,734**	**2,805,889**	**+5.5**
Amtrak Total	**2,691,371**	**2,490,655**	**+8.1**	**19,802,841**	**18,556,190**	**+6.7**

NOTE: Ridership to some locations south and west of Chicago is on both state-supported and national system Amtrak trains, as reported above.
Combined ridership of all Amtrak trains on these corridors is as follows for Oct. 10 - May 11: Chicago-St. Louis, 414,786 (up 3% from Oct. 09 - May 10); Chicago-Carbondale, 231,436 (up 17% from Oct. 09 - May 10) and Chicago-Quincy 168,248 (up 9% from Oct. 09 - May 10).

Amtrak Monthly Ridership 19 Straight Months of Ridership Growth Year-Over-Year Comparison		
Month	Ridership	% chg. vs same month prior year
May-11	2,691,371	+8.1%
Apr-11	2,688,955	+9.9%
Mar-11	2,610,567	+5.5%
Feb-11	2,099,010	+7.6%
Jan-11	2,126,429	+4.6%
Dec-10	2,504,249	+4.6%
Nov-10	2,541,090	+6.3%
Oct-10	2,541,170	+6.9%
Sep-10	2,286,215	+5.7%
Aug-10	2,541,159	+2.3%
Jul-10	2,766,812	+9.8%
Jun-10	2,566,481	+9.3%
May-10	2,490,655	+7.1%
Apr-10	2,445,765	+7.9%
Mar-10	2,473,551	+13.5%
Feb-10	1,951,411	+5.5%
Jan-10	2,032,586	+2.7%
Dec-09	2,394,671	+4.8%
Nov-09	2,389,841	+2.8%

Annual Amtrak Ridership FY 00 to FY 10	
FY00	20,992,485
FY01	21,812,224
FY02	21,669,207
FY03	22,333,180
FY04	23,362,729
FY05	24,031,170
FY06	24,306,965
FY07	25,847,531
FY08	28,716,407
FY09	27,167,014
FY10	28,716,857