



# Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2016

## State of Rhode Island

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### Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates approximately 34 Northeast Corridor trains daily in Rhode Island with *Acela Express* and *Regional* service.

During FY16 Amtrak served the following Rhode Island locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
<a href="#">Kingston</a>	161,157
<a href="#">Providence*</a>	717,537
<a href="#">Westerly</a>	42,560
<b>Total Rhode Island Station Usage:</b>	<b>921,254</b>
	(up 3.6% from FY15)

*\*Providence is the 11th busiest station in the national Amtrak System.*

### Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak spent \$3,797,586 on goods and services in Rhode Island in FY16. Much of this, \$2,104,232, was in Smithfield.

### Employment

At the end of FY16, Amtrak employed 327 Rhode Island residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Rhode Island were \$26,666,163 during FY16.

### High-Speed Corridor Improvements

- **Kingston Station Capacity Expansion:** Amtrak and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) are beginning work on a \$41-million improvement project at Kingston to improve train operations and passenger experience along this stretch of the Northeast Corridor, while also paving the way for long-term transit planning in the state.

The project includes construction of two new high-level platforms that will create a safer, more efficient boarding process for all passengers and full access for those with disabilities. The project also features construction of a third track through Kingston to enable higher-speed *Acela Express*

trains to safely bypass *Regional* trains stopping at Kingston. These improvements also could accommodate expanded commuter rail service in the future. The track improvements also will reduce congestion and minimize delays at a critical choke point in western Rhode Island, improving reliability and efficiency of the busy Northeast Corridor.

The project is funded jointly by a \$26.5-million High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program (HSIPR) grant through RIDOT; the remainder of the funding provided by Amtrak, which will manage design and construction. Completion is scheduled for summer 2017.

- **Providence Station Improvements:** In 2015, RIDOT upgraded the station's south entrance (downtown side) to enhance circulation for vehicles, buses, and taxis and to create an inviting, civic space at the station. Improved amenities for bicyclists, updated signage, and landscaping were completed early in 2016. Needed pedestrian enhancements also will be made along Gaspee Street and repairs to damaged concrete and limestone areas on the building's facade began in 2016 and are expected to be completed during 2017. These improvements are being supported by approximately \$6 million in State and Federal Transit Administration funds.

With a \$3-million FRA HSIPR grant, RIDOT also will analyze a series of potential improvements to the station for future high-speed rail service, commuter service, and rail freight movements. Amtrak also is partnering with the Department of Homeland Security at the station, where bollards to restrict vehicle access and exterior lighting will enhance security.

## **State Rail Plan**

The Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program (RISPP) has worked in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), along with stakeholder involvement from the State Rail Plan Advisory Committee, to develop the Rhode Island State Rail Plan 2014. The Advisory Committee assisted throughout the course of the development of the Plan and was made up of representatives from state and federal agencies, public and private passenger and freight rail operators, a rail passenger association, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), Rhode Island and Massachusetts regional planning agencies, and interest groups. Through the Advisory Committee's involvement, this planning process to update the Plan has provided an opportunity to bring together various agencies and organizations that have a stake in rail transportation in Rhode Island and the region.

## **Motor Connections**

Working with several parties in Rhode Island, Amtrak assisted in the coordination and successful implementation of two connecting van/car services from Kingston. One service connects Newport with all trains stopping at Kingston. The other goes from Kingston to Quonset Point, connecting with the High Speed Ferry to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The Quonset Point shuttle is coordinated with Amtrak schedules to ensure smooth connections. Both services require reservations.

## **Commuter Rail Service**

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has had a long partnership with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) for commuter rail service connecting Providence with Boston, beginning with just 5 daily round trips in 1988.

**Providence:** Service expanded over time with more trips, including a robust weekend schedule. There are now 16 Boston-Providence round trips and 10 Providence-T. F. Green-Wickford Junction round trips on weekdays. On weekends, there are 9 Boston-Providence Saturday round trips; 7 on Sundays.

**T. F. Green Airport:** In 2010, RIDOT and MBTA extended service south to the InterLink intermodal facility in Warwick. On November 14, 2011, MBTA expanded service to this location, better matching up with flight times.

**Wickford Junction:** Commuter service to South (Washington) County began with the opening of the Wickford Junction station in North Kingstown on April 23, 2012. All trains formerly terminating at T. F. Green now also serve Wickford Junction.

# AMTRAK ROUTES IN RHODE ISLAND

