



## Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2017

# State of Connecticut

### Amtrak-Connecticut partnership

- Connecticut contributes to the cost of *Shuttle* and *Northeast Regional* services on the New Haven-Hartford-Springfield line, as well as the *Vermont*
- The state is leading a major upgrade of the Springfield line, to be done in 2018
- Over 143,000 Connecticut residents are members of the Amtrak Guest Rewards frequent user program

### Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates approximately 46 trains daily in Connecticut. These include *Acela Express*, *Regional*, and *Vermont* (Washington, D.C.-New Haven-St. Albans, Vt.) services along the coast, and State Supported *Vermont* and *Springfield Shuttle* services between New Haven, Hartford, and Springfield, Mass.

During FY17 Amtrak served the following Connecticut locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
<a href="#">Berlin</a>	14,007
<a href="#">Bridgeport</a>	87,023
<a href="#">Hartford</a>	127,805
<a href="#">Meriden</a>	12,703
<a href="#">Mystic</a>	25,687
<a href="#">New Haven</a>	627,065
<a href="#">New London</a>	161,916
<a href="#">Old Saybrook</a>	64,328
<a href="#">Stamford</a>	410,593
<a href="#">Wallingford</a>	8,258
<a href="#">Windsor</a>	8,638
<a href="#">Windsor Locks</a>	15,155
<b>Total Connecticut Station Usage:</b>	<b>1,563,178</b>

## Procurement

Amtrak spent \$30,106,539 on goods and services in Connecticut in FY17. Much of this amount was in the following locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Branford	\$ 2,689,211
Danbury	\$ 2,319,688
Guilford	\$ 4,690,073
New Britain	\$ 3,096,523
Newington	\$ 1,249,092
Plainville	\$ 5,700,268
Plantsville	\$ 1,137,689
Rocky Hill	\$ 5,502,696

## Employment

At the end of FY17, Amtrak employed 716 Connecticut residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Connecticut were \$60,120,177 during FY17.

## PRIIA Section 209

The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-432) required, by October 2013, an equitable arrangement of cost sharing between Amtrak and state or public agency partners that provide funding for short-distance, intercity train services. Agreements were reached with all parties, including Connecticut, by the deadline, and the services continued to run without interruption.

## Contract Commuter Services

Amtrak operates the daily Shore Line East (SLE) commuter service between New Haven and New London under an agreement with the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT). Weekday operations consist of 20 trains between New Haven and Old Saybrook and 13 between New Haven and New London.

## Major Facilities

Amtrak owns and operates a rail yard in New Haven where routine maintenance and equipment repair take place. It services both electric and diesel locomotives.

There are several moveable bridges along the Northeast Corridor in southeastern Connecticut:

**Thames River:** Replacement of the bridge between New London and Groton was completed in 2008, at a cost of \$76 million. The previous 1919 bascule lift bridge was replaced with a new vertical lift bridge. Another project to paint and make steel repairs to the four approach spans was completed in 2010, using \$20 million in stimulus funding.

**Niantic River:** Construction of a new bridge was completed in 2013. This was one of Amtrak's most complex capital projects in recent years, involving replacement of a two-track, electrified, moveable bridge while rail traffic continued. The new bridge has improved reliability, reduced the chances of operational failure, and helped minimize train and river traffic delays. The project included the replacement of portions of East Lyme's Niantic Bay Overlook Walkway, replenishment of the beach with 76,000 cubic yards of sand, and increased parking at a local park for expanded beach access.

In 2014, Amtrak and the Town of East Lyme partnered to complete the second portion of the Niantic Bay Overlook Walkway. Amtrak contributed \$400,000 in services toward the \$4.4 million project, which was finished in 2015.

**Connecticut River:** The Connecticut River Bridge, between Old Saybrook and Old Lyme, carries Amtrak and Shore Line East trains. Opened in 1907, it is the oldest movable bridge between New Haven and Boston. Many key elements of the bridge have reached the end of their design life and speeds on the bridge are restricted to 45 mph. Amtrak plans to replace the bridge and has completed the Preliminary Design work. It is now performing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and will be seeking Federal Railroad Administration approval. The new design and configuration of a replacement bridge will aim to improve reliability and offer higher speeds for Amtrak and Shore Line East trains. Amtrak will progress Final Design over the next two years and will work to identify funding sources for construction.

### **New Haven-Springfield High-Speed Corridor Improvements**

The New Haven-Hartford-Springfield (NHHS) rail program, led by Connecticut, includes design and construction of additional rail capacity on Amtrak-owned infrastructure between those cities. This includes track and signal improvements, as well as construction of new station facilities.

Over the last three work seasons, Amtrak has been managing the installation of new underground signal and communications cables over the line and installing a second set of tracks along the entire length of the 62-mile corridor (which is currently single-tracked). This double-tracking will support the increased number and frequency of daily commuter trains that ConnDOT plans to begin running in 2018 (called CTrail). Amtrak's existing service will not be altered by this new service. CTrail trains will operate together with Amtrak trains on the rail line to provide seamless service.

When the Hartford Line service launches in 2018, a total of 17 roundtrip trains between New Haven and Hartford will operate each weekday, with 12 of those roundtrip trains continuing to Springfield. On weekends, a total of 13 roundtrip trains will operate between New Haven and Hartford, with 9 of those trains continuing onto Springfield. Train schedules and additional service information will be announced in late 2017.

Several new stations also are being built as part of the project. Service to the new Wallingford station began on November 6, 2017. New platforms and pedestrian overpass went into service at Meriden on November 17, 2017.

