

Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2017 State of Louisiana

Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates three National Network trains through Louisiana:

- The *Crescent* (daily New Orleans-Atlanta-New York)
- The *City of New Orleans* (daily Chicago-Memphis-New Orleans)
- The Sunset Limited (tri-weekly Orlando-New Orleans-Los Angeles)*

During FY17 Amtrak served the following Louisiana locations:

City	Boardings + Alightings
<u>Hammond</u>	10,839
<u>Lafayette</u>	6,154
<u>Lake Charles</u>	3,719
New Iberia	1,602
New Orleans	189,189
Schriever	1,294
Slidell	10,644
Total Louisiana Station Usage:	223,441
	(up 4.1% from FY16)

Procurement

Amtrak spent \$2,301,975 on goods and services in Louisiana in FY17, about half of it in Geismar.

Employment

At the end of FY17, Amtrak employed 225 Louisiana residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Louisiana were \$14,458,388 during FY17.

^{*} Sunset Limited service suspended east of New Orleans.

Connecting Service

In August 2014, Amtrak partnered with Greyhound to provide connecting motor coach service from Mobile to New Orleans and from Mobile to Jackson to connect with the *City of New Orleans*, and from Montgomery and Mobile to New Orleans to connect with the *Sunset Limited*.

Major Facilities

Amtrak operates the New Orleans maintenance facility, which services and performs light overhauls for Viewliner, and Heritage cars for the *Crescent*. This facility also performs running/turn around maintenance on all of the long-distance equipment and locomotives serving New Orleans from the following trains: *City of New Orleans, Crescent*, and *Sunset Limited*.

Station Improvements

New Orleans: In 2016, Amtrak Engineering completed a major track restoration project that included the removal and replacement of terminal tracks 2-8 with welded rail and concrete ties. Additionally, the diesel shop tracks were rebuilt and the coach yard shop lead was removed, relocated and replaced in its original location.

In 2017, Amtrak Engineering began a coach yard restoration. Yard tracks 1 and 3 were rebuilt and extended back to full length, allowing for improved switching operations.

Service Restoration Update

In 2015, Amtrak conducted a ridership and revenue study for the Southern Rail Commission that outlined potential options for restoring service between New Orleans the Gulf Coast and Florida. Subsequently, the FAST Act of 2015 required Amtrak and the FRA to perform an analysis that was developed from the option the Southern Rail Commission chose to pursue from the previous study. That option was a daily, long-distance service between New Orleans and Orlando (with through service from Chicago) and a daily corridor service between New Orleans and Mobile.

In February 2016, Amtrak, in partnership with the Southern Rail Commission, operated a two-day inspection train from New Orleans to Jacksonville. The train made stops at all of the previously served stops with significant fanfare and political support at each location.

The Gulf Coast Working Group, led by FRA, concluded their work in May 2017 and submitted their findings to Congress, which included \$118 million in capital improvements. Amtrak supports the findings of this report. Negotiations remain underway between all of the parties necessary to restore service between New Orleans and Florida.

