

Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2017 State of Mississippi

Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak serves Mississippi with three National Network trains:

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

During FY17 Amtrak served the following Mississippi locations*:

City	Boardings + Alightings
<u>Brookhaven</u>	4,131
Greenwood	14,471
<u>Hattiesburg</u>	8,588
<u>Hazlehurst</u>	1,660
<u>Jackson</u>	48,678
<u>Laurel</u>	3,614
<u>McComb</u>	5,033
Meridian	9,417
<u>Picayune</u>	2,363
Yazoo City	3,587
Total Mississippi Station Usage:	101,542

^{*}Service to Bay St. Louis, Biloxi, Gulfport, Pascagoula suspended 8/27/05.

Procurement

Amtrak spent \$200,154 on goods and services in Mississippi in FY17.

Employment

At the end of FY17, Amtrak employed 62 Mississippi residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Mississippi were \$4,558,045 during FY17.

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

Stations

Local officials gathered on October 7, 2016, to break ground on a new station facility at Marks, which is between Memphis and Greenwood on the *City of New Orleans* route. A platform and shelter are under construction and will be completed in early 2018.

Connecting Service

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

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.

