



Amtrak Fact Sheet Fiscal Year 2019 *State of Mississippi*

Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak serves Mississippi with two National Network trains:

- The **City of New Orleans** (daily Chicago-Champaign/Urbana-Carbondale-Memphis-Jackson-New Orleans)
- The **Crescent** (daily New Orleans-Meridian-Birmingham-Atlanta-Charlotte-Charlottesville- New York)

During FY19 Amtrak served the following Mississippi locations*:

| <u>City</u> | <u>Boardings & Alightings</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Brookhaven | 2,809 |
| Greenwood | 12,306 |
| Hattiesburg | 8,326 |
| Hazlehurst | 1,045 |
| Jackson | 74,248 |
| Laurel | 3,715 |
| Marks | 2,542 |
| McComb | 3,602 |
| Meridian | 9,173 |
| Picayune | 1,738 |
| Yazoo City | 3,158 |
| Total Mississippi Station Usage: | 122,662 |

Service to Bay St. Louis, Biloxi, Gulfport, and Pascagoula via the **Sunset Limited suspended 8/27/05.*

Host Railroads & On Time Performance

Amtrak relies heavily on the cooperation of other railroads in order to operate routes using tracks that are not owned or controlled by Amtrak. Host railroads are statutorily required to provide Amtrak trains “preference” over freight transportation. However, on time performance on most host railroads is poor and continues to decline largely due to hosts ignoring their statutory responsibilities.

Listed below are the Amtrak services that operate in Mississippi with each service’s host railroads and on-time performance (OTP) in FY19:

| Service | Host Railroads | FY19 OTP |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| City of New Orleans | Canadian National | 54.1% |
| Crescent | Norfolk Southern | 28.7% |

“On-time performance” represents the percentage of stations at which the train arrives within 15 minutes of the scheduled arrival time.

Amtrak Guest Rewards

At the end of FY19, there were **28,092** members of the Amtrak Guest Rewards program in Mississippi. This is a 11% increase from FY18.

Employment

At the end of FY19, Amtrak employed 59 Mississippi residents. Total wages during FY19 of Amtrak employees living in Mississippi were \$5,589,061.

Station Improvements

Greenwood: In FY20 work began on ADA improvements that include a new 700’ platform, as well as access to/from the waiting room in the historic Illinois Central Depot. These improvements are expected to be complete by Spring 2021.

Hazlehurst: In FY20 work began on ADA improvements that include a new shelter, 400’ platform and sidewalks accessing the station platform and shelter from public rights of way. These improvements are expected to be completed by early 2021.

Laurel: In FY20 design work is starting for a new ADA compliant 650’ platform, with connecting sidewalks to the historic City owned, Southern Railway Station. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Fall 2020.

Marks: A new station facility opened in 2018. An ADA-compliant platform and shelter were built to support passenger service for the community.

McComb: In FY20 design work is being finalized for ADA improvements that include a new 700’ platform, as well as access to/from the waiting room in the historic Illinois Central Depot that also serves as the City’s Railroad Museum. Construction start date anticipated Spring 2021.

Picayune: In FY20 work began on ADA improvements that include a new 400’ platform and sidewalks accessing the Picayune Transportation Center. These improvements are expected to be completed by early 2021.

Yazoo City: In FY20 design work is starting for a new ADA compliant 300’ platform, shelter, parking lot and associated connecting sidewalks. Construction start date anticipated Fall 2020.

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**.

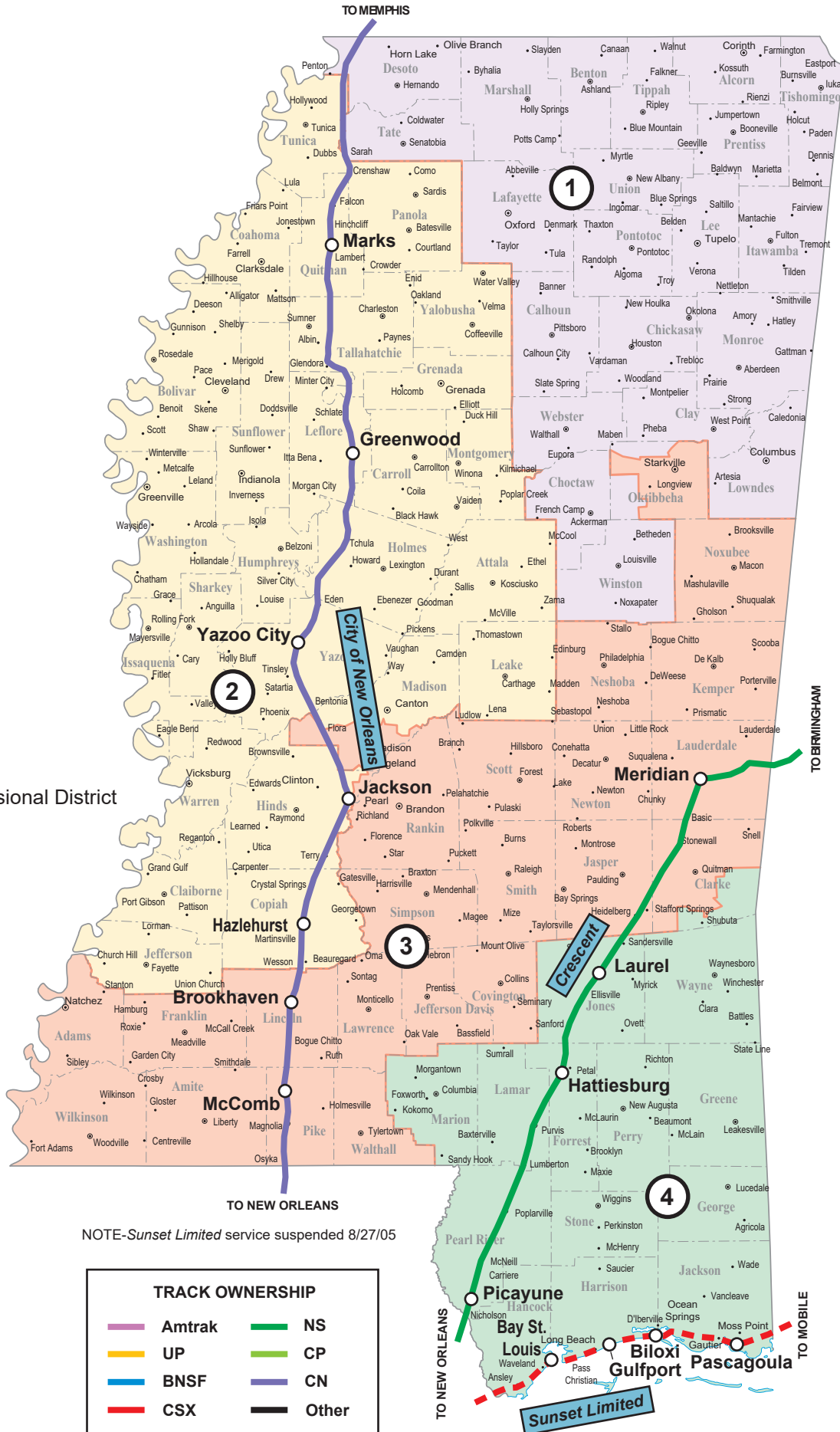
Service Restoration Update

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 Federal Railroad Administration (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 the previously served stops with significant fanfare and political support at each location.

The Gulf Coast Working Group, led by the 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. While negotiations remain underway between the parties necessary to restore service between New Orleans and Florida, there is a strong desire to establish multiple frequency corridor service between New Orleans and Mobile utilizing the CRISI Grant Program with matching support from the states. This alternative is being advanced in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

AMTRAK ROUTES IN MISSISSIPPI



NOTE-Sunset Limited service suspended 8/27/05