



Amtrak in Montana

Fiscal Year 2024



Amtrak is America's Railroad,[®] created by Congress to "provide efficient and effective intercity passenger rail mobility consisting of high quality service that is trip-time competitive with other intercity travel options." In FY 2024, the company's 22,000+ employees operated an average of almost 300 intercity trains per day along 47 permanent routes, serving a record 32.8 million passengers. Amtrak's network includes 524 regularly-scheduled stops across 46 states, 3 Canadian provinces, and Washington, DC. Partner-operated Thruway routes offer connecting service to additional communities, typically via bus.

Service & Ridership

In FY 2024, Amtrak operated an average of **2 intercity trains per day** on 1 permanent route serving Montana, with **98,487 total passengers** boarding or alighting in the state.¹ Service was provided via the following route:²

- **Long-Distance Trains**

- **Empire Builder** — Seattle / Portland - Spokane - Whitefish - Havre - Minot - Fargo - St. Paul-Minneapolis - Milwaukee - Chicago (*1 round trip daily*)

Stations

During FY 2024, Amtrak intercity trains made scheduled stops at 12 locations in Montana:

Station (Code)	Ridership (Ons + Offs)	Amtrak ADA Responsibility	Amtrak ADA Compliance	Amtrak ADA Investment ³
Browning (BRO)	1,061	Sole	Complete	\$117,269
Cut Bank (CUT)	1,534	Sole	Complete	\$720,697
East Glacier Park (GPK)	10,601	Sole	FY 25	\$6,168,546
Essex (ESM)	411	Sole	FY 27	\$2,129,043
Glasgow (GGW)	3,492	Sole	FY 26	\$5,752,118
Havre (HAV)	8,816	Sole	FY 25	\$6,878,698
Libby (LIB)	4,519	Sole	Complete	\$696,193
Malta (MAL)	5,127	Sole	FY 26	\$2,399,813
Shelby (SBY)	7,927	Sole	Complete	\$8,489,787
West Glacier (WGL)	4,788	Sole	FY 27	\$6,196,835
Whitefish (WFH)	46,400	Partial	FY 26	\$401,098
Wolf Point (WPT)	3,811	Sole	Complete	\$5,301,623
Total:	98,487	12/12	In Progress	\$45,251,718

¹ Total equals sum of all boardings and alightings at in-state stations.

² Not all stops shown. Note that certain frequencies may not serve every station listed.

³ "Amtrak ADA Investment" describes Amtrak's projected total investment in compliance work over the lifetime of ADASP.



Importantly, Amtrak is working to ensure that its stations are fully accessible to individuals with disabilities. Most Amtrak-served stations are decades old; many were served by other railroads before the company ever existed. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), enacted in 1990, requires that U.S. stations be made accessible; in response, Amtrak developed an ADA Stations Program (ADASP) to bring station components for which the company is responsible into full ADA compliance. ADASP aims to ensure Amtrak provides the best possible service in the shortest possible timeframe; the program will ultimately invest a total of \$1.8 billion in up to 385 communities nationwide, including a **\$45.3 million investment in Montana**. All Amtrak-responsible work is targeted for completion by the end of FY 2029.

Detailed profiles of every permanent Amtrak station stop, including current information on accessibility, can be found on the Great American Stations website: <https://www.greatamericanstations.com>.

Additional Footprint

Amtrak maintains a **crew base** in Shelby.

Host Railroads & On Time Performance

Outside the Boston-to-Washington, DC, Northeast Corridor (NEC), most Amtrak trains must travel over other “host” railroads’ tracks—and hosts generally control dispatching decisions on the tracks that they own. By law, Amtrak trains are supposed to receive preference over freight trains (i.e., priority in dispatching), but many host-dispatched trains arrive late at their destinations, and many routes do not meet on-time performance (OTP) standards established by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)—affecting millions of passengers per year.

Listed below are the Amtrak routes that operate in Montana, along with each route’s major in-state host railroad(s) and full-route customer on-time performance (C-OTP)⁴ in FY 2024:

Route	In-State Host(s)	C-OTP
<i>Empire Builder</i>	BNSF	55.5%

Procurement

Amtrak’s procurements are subject to “Buy America”-style domestic preference requirements, which the company is proud to meet or exceed. Nationally, Amtrak paid nearly \$4.5 billion for goods and services in FY 2024; 99% of that amount was spent domestically, and **\$861,500** went to vendors in Montana:

Community	Amount
Kalispell	\$506,613
Billings	\$89,172
Whitefish	\$68,208

⁴ C-OTP measures the proportion of customers traveling on a given route who arrive at their destinations on time. Suppose that passengers board a train scheduled to make two stops, and suppose that train is on time at the first stop, but arrives late at the second. If all passengers alight at the first stop, C-OTP for that train is 100%; if all passengers alight at the second stop, C-OTP is 0%.

Community	Amount
Chester	\$45,750
Cut Bank	\$38,318
Shelby	\$27,008
Nashua	\$24,428
Great Falls	\$20,498
All Others < \$20k	\$41,502
Total MT Payments:	\$861,497

The single largest in-state payment category was **construction services**.

Employment & Compensation

At the end of FY 2024, **46 Amtrak employees** worked in Montana, and the company had paid out a total of **\$3,922,161 in base wages and salary** in-state. Nationwide, Amtrak employed more than 22,000 active employees; total base wages and salaries for the year exceeded \$2.1 billion.

Current Amtrak Routes in Montana

