



Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2015

State of Rhode Island

Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates approximately 34 Northeast Corridor trains daily in Rhode Island with *Acela Express* and *Regional* service.

During FY15 Amtrak served the following Rhode Island locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Kingston	157,547
Providence*	690,752
Westerly	40,916
Total Rhode Island Station Usage:	889,215
	(up 3.5% from FY14)

**Providence is the 13th busiest station in the national Amtrak System.*

Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak spent \$2,128,447 on goods and services in Rhode Island in FY15.

Employment

At the end of FY15, Amtrak employed 330 Rhode Island residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Rhode Island were \$26,428,918 during FY15.

High-Speed Corridor Improvements

- **Kingston Station Capacity Expansion:** Amtrak and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) are beginning work on a \$41-million improvement project at Kingston to improve train operations and passenger experience along this stretch of the Northeast Corridor, while also paving the way for long-term transit planning in the state.

The project includes construction of two new high-level platforms that will create a safer, more efficient boarding process for all passengers and full access for those with disabilities. The project also features construction of a third track through Kingston to enable higher-speed *Acela Express* trains to safely bypass *Regional* trains stopping at Kingston. These improvements also could

accommodate expanded commuter rail service in the future. The track improvements also will reduce congestion and minimize delays at a critical choke point in western Rhode Island, improving reliability and efficiency of the busy Northeast Corridor.

The project is funded jointly by a \$26.5-million High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program (HSIPR) grant through RIDOT; the remainder of the funding provided by Amtrak, which will manage design and construction. Completion is scheduled for summer 2017.

- **Providence Station Improvements:** In 2015, RIDOT upgraded the station's south entrance (downtown side) to enhance circulation for vehicles, buses, and taxis and to create an inviting, civic space at the station. Improved amenities for bicyclists, updated signage, and landscaping currently are underway and should be completed early in 2016. Needed pedestrian enhancements also will be made along Gaspee Street and repairs to damaged concrete and limestone areas on the building's facade are scheduled to begin in spring 2016. These improvements are being supported by approximately \$6 million in State and Federal Transit Administration funds.

With a \$3-million FRA HSIPR grant, RIDOT also will analyze a series of potential improvements to the station for future high-speed rail service, commuter service, and rail freight movements. Amtrak also is partnering with the Department of Homeland Security at the station, where bollards to restrict vehicle access and exterior lighting will enhance security.

State Rail Plan

The Rhode Island Statewide Planning Program (RISPP) has worked in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT), along with stakeholder involvement from the State Rail Plan Advisory Committee, to develop the Rhode Island State Rail Plan 2014. The Advisory Committee assisted throughout the course of the development of the Plan and was made up of representatives from state and federal agencies, public and private passenger and freight rail operators, a rail passenger association, the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC), Rhode Island and Massachusetts regional planning agencies, and interest groups. Through the Advisory Committee's involvement, this planning process to update the Plan has provided an opportunity to bring together various agencies and organizations that have a stake in rail transportation in Rhode Island and the region.

Motor Connections

Working with several parties in Rhode Island, Amtrak assisted in the coordination and successful implementation of two connecting van/car services from Kingston. One service connects Newport with all trains stopping at Kingston. The other goes from Kingston to Quonset Point, connecting with the High Speed Ferry to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. The Quonset Point shuttle is coordinated with Amtrak schedules to ensure smooth connections. Both services require reservations.

Commuter Rail Service

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has had a long partnership with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) for commuter rail service connecting Providence with Boston, beginning with just 5 daily round trips in 1988.

Providence: Service expanded over time with more trips, including a robust weekend schedule. There are now 16 Boston-Providence round trips and 10 Providence-T. F. Green-Wickford Junction round trips on weekdays. On weekends, there are 9 Boston-Providence Saturday round trips; 7 on Sundays.

T. F. Green Airport: In 2010, RIDOT and MBTA extended service south to the InterLink intermodal facility in Warwick. On November 14, 2011, MBTA expanded service to this location, better matching up with flight times.

Wickford Junction: Commuter service to South (Washington) County began with the opening of the Wickford Junction station in North Kingstown on April 23, 2012. All trains formerly terminating at T. F. Green now also serve Wickford Junction.

AMTRAK ROUTES IN RHODE ISLAND

