



# Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2017

## 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 FY17 Amtrak served the following Rhode Island locations:

| <u>City</u>                              | <u>Boardings + Alightings</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|
| <a href="#">Kingston</a>                 | 164,263                       |
| <a href="#">Providence*</a>              | 745,703                       |
| <a href="#">Westerly</a>                 | 43,670                        |
| <b>Total Rhode Island Station Usage:</b> | <b>953,636</b>                |
|  | (up 3.5% from FY16)           |

*\*Providence is the 11th busiest station in the national Amtrak System.*

### Procurement

Amtrak spent \$2,665,017 on goods and services in Rhode Island in FY17. Much of this, \$1,190,260, was in Smithfield.

### Employment

At the end of FY17, Amtrak employed 313 Rhode Island residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Rhode Island were \$24,797,474 during FY17.

### High-Speed Corridor Improvements

- **Kingston Station Capacity Expansion:** Amtrak and the Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) completed 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 included construction of two new high-level platforms, creating a safer, more efficient, and more accessible boarding process for all passengers. The project also features construction of a third track through Kingston to enable higher-speed *Acela Express* trains to safely bypass

**Regional** trains stopped 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 was funded jointly by a \$26.5-million High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program (HSIPR) grant through RIDOT; the remainder was provided by Amtrak, which managed design and construction.

- **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 were 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 were completed. 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.

## **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

