



Amtrak in South Carolina

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 **8 intercity trains per day** on 4 permanent routes serving South Carolina, with **182,208 total passengers** boarding or alighting in the state.¹ Service was provided via the following routes:²

▪ Long-Distance Trains

- **Crescent** — New Orleans - Birmingham - Atlanta - Clemson - Greenville - Spartanburg - Charlotte - Washington, DC - Baltimore - Philadelphia - New York (1 round trip daily)
- **Palmetto** — Savannah - Charleston - Florence - Fayetteville - Richmond - Washington, DC - Baltimore - Philadelphia - New York (1 round trip daily)
- **Silver Meteor** — Miami - Orlando - Savannah - Charleston - Florence - Fayetteville - Richmond - Washington, DC - Baltimore - Philadelphia - New York (1 round trip daily)
- **Silver Star** — Miami - Tampa - Orlando - Savannah - Columbia - Raleigh - Richmond - Washington, DC - Baltimore - Philadelphia - New York (1 round trip daily)³

Stations

During FY 2024, Amtrak intercity trains made scheduled stops at 11 locations in South Carolina:

Station (Code)	Ridership (Ons + Offs)	Amtrak ADA Responsibility	Amtrak ADA Compliance	Amtrak ADA Investment ⁴
Camden (CAM)	3,191	Sole	FY 25	\$5,461,493
Charleston (CHS)	66,597	Partial	Complete*	\$1,398
Clemson (CSN)	4,533	Partial	FY 26	\$5,620,598
Columbia (CLB)	28,277	Partial	FY 29	\$7,296,689

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 Effective Nov. 10, 2024, the *Silver Star* (New York - Miami) and *Capitol Limited* (Chicago - Washington, DC) and are being temporarily combined into a new route, the *Floridian* (Chicago - DC - Miami), to accommodate regional capacity constraints created by a capital project in New York. The *Floridian* offers a single-seat connection between the Midwest and Florida, but does not serve *Silver Star* station stops north of Washington.

⁴ "Amtrak ADA Investment" describes Amtrak's projected total investment in compliance work over the lifetime of ADASP.



Station (Code)	Ridership (Ons + Offs)	Amtrak ADA Responsibility	Amtrak ADA Compliance	Amtrak ADA Investment ⁴
Denmark (DNK)	2,990	Partial	FY 25	\$3,471,911
Dillon (DIL)	6,663	Sole	FY 25	\$3,785,456
Florence (FLO)	39,264	Sole	FY 25	\$4,695,242
Greenville (GRV)	9,013	Sole	FY 25	\$5,369,494
Kingstree (KTR)	9,333	Partial	FY 26	\$3,096,934
Spartanburg (SPB)	3,683	None	N/A	—
Yemassee (YEM)	8,664	Partial	FY 28	\$2,184,947
Total:	182,208	10/11	In Progress	\$40,984,162

** Status reflects third-party investments in Amtrak-responsible station components.*

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 385 communities nationwide, including a **\$41.0 million investment in South Carolina**. 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 Florence.

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 South Carolina, along with each route’s major in-state host railroad(s) and full-route customer on-time performance (C-OTP)⁵ in FY 2024:

⁵ 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%.

Route	In-State Host(s)	C-OTP
<i>Crescent</i>	Norfolk Southern	58.7%
<i>Palmetto</i>	CSX	66.1%
<i>Silver Meteor</i>	CSX	46.9%
<i>Silver Star</i>	CSX	40.8%

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 **\$29.6 million** went to vendors in South Carolina:

Community	Amount
Duncan	\$15,490,616
Darlington	\$4,784,279
Clinton	\$3,323,870
Lexington	\$1,907,197
Cayce-West Columbia	\$1,326,248
Piedmont	\$643,813
Columbia	\$495,746
Camden	\$349,848
Beaufort	\$301,043
Rock Hill	\$262,704
Greenville	\$238,934
Conway	\$139,958
Ft. Mill	\$72,992
Simpsonville	\$58,181
Aiken	\$46,727
Myrtle Beach	\$38,372
North Charleston	\$36,667
All Others < \$25K	\$154,126
Total SC Payments:	\$29,671,320

The single largest in-state payment category was **rolling stock undercarriage systems and components**.

Employment & Compensation

At the end of FY 2024, **54 Amtrak employees** worked in South Carolina, and the company had paid out a total of **\$4,655,404 in base wages and salary** in-state. Nationwide, Amtrak employed more than 22,000 active workers; total base wages and salaries for the year exceeded \$2.1 billion.

Current Amtrak Routes in South Carolina

(Effective Nov. 2024, Silver Star is temporarily replaced by Chicago-Miami Floridian (not pictured), which merges Chicago-Washington Capitol Limited service with Silver Star service south of Washington.)

