



Amtrak Fact Sheet, Fiscal Year 2015

State of Wisconsin

Amtrak-Wisconsin partnership

- *Hiawatha Service* – seven daily round trips, Milwaukee-Chicago
- Additional service is being studied
- Over 62,000 Wisconsin residents are members of the Amtrak Guest Rewards frequent user program

Amtrak Service & Ridership

Amtrak operates one National Network train through Wisconsin, the *Empire Builder* (daily Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul-Seattle/Portland via Columbus, Portage, Wisconsin Dells, Tomah, and La Crosse), and the State Supported *Hiawatha Service*, with seven daily round-trips daily on the Milwaukee-Chicago corridor.

During FY15 Amtrak served the following Wisconsin locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Boardings + Alightings</u>
Columbus	12,906
La Crosse	24,269
Milwaukee	594,076
Milwaukee Airport	157,042
Portage	6,116
Sturtevant	74,472
Tomah	10,300
Wisconsin Dells	13,240
Total Wisconsin Station Usage:	892,421
	(up 0.1% from FY14)

Procurement/Contracts

Amtrak spent \$13,360,687 on goods and services in Wisconsin in FY15. Most of this was in the following locations:

<u>City</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Glendale	\$ 3,097,675
Menomonee Falls	\$ 1,075,717

Milwaukee	\$	3,842,235
Oak Creek	\$	2,778,380

Employment

At the end of FY15, Amtrak employed 57 Wisconsin residents. Total wages of Amtrak employees living in Wisconsin were \$4,761,125 during FY15.

PRIIA Section 209 and State Supported Services

The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-432) required, by October 2013, an equitable arrangement of cost sharing between Amtrak and state or public agency partners that provide funding for short-distance, intercity train services. Agreements were reached with all parties, including Wisconsin, by the deadline, and the services continued to run without interruption.

The State of Wisconsin, in partnership with the State of Illinois, funds the operation of seven daily, round-trip *Hiawatha Service* trains between Milwaukee and Chicago. With seven frequencies in each direction daily, the service is the most heavily used Amtrak route in the Midwest.

Expansion Planning and Service Improvements

Additional Chicago-Twin Cities Service: Amtrak conducted an analysis for the Minnesota and Wisconsin Departments of Transportation of potential ridership, revenue, and operating costs for a second, daily, State Supported round-trip between St. Paul-Minneapolis and Chicago, supplementing the existing *Empire Builder* National Network train. The report also provided a “high-level” examination of capital start-up costs, such as equipment acquisition and infrastructure improvements needed to accommodate the additional frequency of service.

This report is available in its entirety at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail/mn-chicago-study.html>

Additional Hiawatha Frequencies: The addition of three *Hiawatha* frequencies daily in each direction between Chicago and Milwaukee is in preliminary discussions. This would allow for a total of ten daily trains in each direction. Additional frequencies would likely be phased in one-at-a-time in coming years.

Pets-on-Trains: in response to consumer demand and following a successful pilot program on select Illinois corridors, Amtrak announced plans to allow pets to be brought onto short distance trains across the Amtrak system beginning in 2016. Only one cat or dog in a carrier is allowed per passenger, eligible on trips of seven hours or less, and pet and carrier must weigh less than 20 pounds. National Network

Station Improvements

Improving ADA Accessibility: Amtrak will undertake work at and around stations as part of Amtrak’s nationwide Americans with Disabilities Act compliance plan. In FY16, Amtrak will begin the design phase for these improvements at and around the Portage station.

- **Columbus:** Amtrak partnered with Wisconsin DOT, CP Rail, and local businesses to rehabilitate the parking lot and walkway areas around the Columbus station. This work was supplementary to the ADA improvements mentioned above.
- **Milwaukee:** Amtrak continues to work with Wisconsin DOT on their efforts to rebuild the existing train shed and platforms at the Milwaukee Intermodal Station to provide a safer, healthier, more modern, experience. Work to construct a mezzanine over the tracks, with escalators and elevators connecting to new, ADA-compliant platforms, is expected to conclude in winter 2016.

AMTRAK ROUTES IN WISCONSIN

TRACK OWNERSHIP	
— Amtrak	— NS
— UP	— CP
— BNSF	— CN
— CSX	— Other

