

News Release



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AMTRAK ADDS FREE Wi-Fi TO MORE TRAINS Major expansion to 12 East Coast routes includes *Northeast Regional, Keystone Service and Empire Service*

WASHINGTON – Responding to strong passenger interest, Amtrak is launching today a major expansion of its free AmtrakConnectSM Wi-Fi service to 12 East Coast routes. As a result, trains that carry nearly 60 percent of all Amtrak passengers now have Wi-Fi connections.

This phase of Wi-Fi expansion includes *Northeast Regional* trains, the most popular Amtrak service, which operates daily between Virginia and Boston, and the heavily traveled *Empire Service* (New York – Albany – Buffalo) and *Keystone Service* (New York – Philadelphia – Harrisburg, Pa.)

Other routes now with Wi-Fi include: *Carolinian* (New York – Charlotte), *Downeaster* (Boston – Portland), *Ethan Allen Express* (New York – Rutland, Vt.), the New Haven – Springfield *Shuttle* and *Vermont* (Washington – St. Albans, Vt.)

Wi-Fi also is installed on four other routes as part of this expansion, but only in select cars marked with hotspot window stickers because these trains are made up of different types of equipment: *Adirondack* (New York – Montreal), *Maple Leaf* (New York – Toronto), *Palmetto* (New York – Savannah, Ga.), and *Pennsylvanian* (New York – Philadelphia – Pittsburgh.)

AmtrakConnect Wi-Fi service is already available on high-speed *Acela Express* trains in the Northeast Corridor and on the Amtrak *Cascades* service in the Pacific Northwest.

“The expansion of Wi-Fi further enhances the travel experience for passengers, giving them more options for entertainment or to do work while en route,” says Vice President for Marketing and Product Development Emmett Fremaux. “We are committed to continuing to improve and expand this service as resources and technology allow.”

While Wi-Fi service has long been a priority for Amtrak, the biggest obstacle to providing Internet connectivity on trains is the limited bandwidth on many routes, currently

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AMTRAKCONNECTSM

provided through third-party cellular data networks located along the tracks. Amtrak is exploring ways to expand that coverage through talks with cellular companies. Importantly, the AmtrakConnect technology is designed in a way that enables it to take advantage of technology improvements such as faster 4G speeds, as they become available along the routes.

“We’re taking maximum advantage of the existing infrastructure to offer Wi-Fi service to our passengers,” says Lenetta McCampbell, senior director of on board systems. “And we’re poised to improve upon those offerings rapidly as the networks we tap into advance.”

The next expansion of Wi-Fi will be on state-supported Amtrak services in California by the end of 2011, including on *Capitol Corridor*, *Pacific Surfliner*, and *San Joaquin* trains. When that occurs, 75 percent of all Amtrak passengers will have access to on-board Wi-Fi.

About Amtrak®:

Celebrating 40 years of dedicated service as America’s Railroad®, Amtrak is the nation’s intercity passenger rail provider and its only high-speed rail operator. A record 30.2 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2011 on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak operates trains in partnership with 15 states and four commuter rail agencies. Enjoy the journeySM at Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on facebook.com/Amtrak and follow us at twitter.com/Amtrak

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