

# Shapiro Administration Finalizes Agreement to Expand Western Pa. Passenger-Rail Access

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**Harrisburg, PA** – The Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) finalized an agreement with Norfolk Southern Corporation (NS) to expand passenger rail service on the Pennsylvania Amtrak line in Western Pennsylvania. Thanks to this expansion, more Pennsylvanians will have access to modern, safe, reliable passenger rail that gets them where they need to go – connecting Pennsylvania communities and bringing jobs, economic development, and preserving a critical freight rail corridor," said **PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll**. "Ensuring more Pennsylvanians have access to safe and reliable transportation to Western PA will reduce commute times, help connect hundreds of thousands of residents, and boost local economies. This expansion of service on the Pennsylvania will provide key mobility and economic benefits."

Currently, the Pennsylvania Amtrak service travels roundtrip between New York City and Pittsburgh via Harrisburg once daily. The agreement that Norfolk Southern and PennDOT entered into supports increasing those Pennsylvania passenger services to twice a day. To support these expanded passenger operations, the Commonwealth will invest more than \$200 million in infrastructure and safety improvements that will be constructed and maintained by Norfolk Southern. PennDOT has applied for grant funds through the Federal Railroad Administration to help pay for these improvements.

The future improvements and construction will stem from a previously released Norfolk Southern operational feasibility study requested by PennDOT and includes upgraded rail lines, sidings, and necessary communications signals infrastructure. The renegotiated agreement with Norfolk Southern for the infrastructure work needed to support the additional Pennsylvania ensures that safety and the best interests of the Commonwealth are fully addressed.

"Norfolk Southern is excited to build upon our partnership with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by increasing passenger rail options for the citizens of Pennsylvania while improving the resilience of our infrastructure for the shippers in the Commonwealth," said **Norfolk Southern Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Mike McClellan**. "This is a win-win agreement that would not be possible without the dedication and collaboration of our state officials, who share our vision for enhanced rail service across the Keystone State."

The Pennsylvania is a key passenger rail route connecting the citizens of the Keystone State from east to west, and, in conjunction with the Capitol Limited, with Cleveland, Chicago and beyond. The Pennsylvania travels Norfolk Southern's Pittsburgh Line, which is part of the Premier Corridor, a main artery for double-stack intermodal traffic moving between Chicago and metropolitan New York. It is one of the busiest and fastest links on Norfolk Southern's network, connecting with major terminals in Toledo, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Harrisburg and the Lehigh Valley. In a typical year, more than half of Norfolk Southern's time-sensitive parcel and less-than-truckload shipments use the route at some point. The company's trains deliver or pick up freight at 140-plus locations along the corridor, serving more than 800 customers.

"We look forward to working with PennDOT and Norfolk Southern on this expansion of Amtrak service in the Commonwealth," said **Amtrak Vice President of State Supported Services Ray Lang**.

Pennsylvania has 65 operating railroads – the most of any state in the country – and ranks fifth in total track mileage with more than 5,600 miles. The [2020 Pennsylvania State Rail Plan \(PDF\)](#) [↗](#) reported that in 2017, 193.5 million tons of freight in 4.9 million railcars moved over the state's rail transportation system.

More information on PennDOT's efforts to improve intercity passenger rail in Pennsylvania is available on [PennDOT's website](#) [↗](#).

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