Blazing Trails For 150 Years

The Northeast Corridor between Washington and Boston is the nation's busiest rail corridor, serving over 220 million passengers per year. Begun in 1838 in Stonington, Connecticut, the rail line north of New York was then consolidated from many smaller lines by the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroads in the 1880's. South of New York, the Pennsylvania Railroad stretched from New York to Washington. Amtrak took ownership in 1976. Since then, $3 billion has been invested to preserve and upgrade the railroad. The highspeed rail project will complete these upgrades and inaugurate an entirely new level of premium service to America.

THE PROGRESS CONTINUES

- Original rail beds installed.
- 1838-1840 1850 1860
- 1870s 1880s 1890s 1900s
- 1910s 1920s 1930s 1940s 1950s
- 1960s 1970s 1980s 1990s 2000s

World's first overhead electrification system constructed between New York and New Haven.

Congressional resolution authorizes building of the Northeast Corridor.

Congress commits to electrification of corridor. Amtrak begins improvements to achieve three hour New York-Boston service.

Amtrak assumes ownership of most of the Northeast Corridor, and initiates improvement project to preserve and upgrade regional passenger rail service.

Year

High-Speed Rail improvements completed, new trains delivered. World class high-speed train service begins.

Northeast Corridor
High-Speed Rail

Amtrak's
Fast Track
To The Future

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Full Speed Into the Future

Three Steps To High Speed Rail

High Speed Trains
- Amtrak is buying 15 high-horsepower electric locomotives and up to 18 high-speed trains capable of 150 mph service.
- Trains are integrated or “fixed”—a locomotive at either end with six passenger cars in between.
- Built in America with domestic labor and materials, manufacturing of high-speed trains will establish a whole new industry for the United States.

Electrification
- Safest system in the world provides built-in reliability and protection.
- New electrification system between New Haven and Boston completes long-planned service for entire corridor.
- Auto-tensioned wires withstand extreme temperature changes from severe icing and winds to heat and humidity.
- Counter balances permit minimalist design, maximum pole spacing (75'-225' apart) for minimal visual impact.

Infrastructure
- Entire rail line revitalized with new track, signal system, bridges.
- Curves modified to permit higher speeds.
- Installation of 140 miles of continuous welded rail for faster service and 332,000 concrete ties for smoother ride.
- Station enhancements to improve passenger comfort and provide intermodal connections.
- Signal systems upgraded to maximize safety and increase capacity for all railroad users.
- High-level station platforms for safer, easier, faster boarding.

HIGH-SPEED TRIP TIME GOALS
- Boston to New York: 3 hours 00 minutes
- New York to Washington: 2 hours 45 minutes

DEPARTING 1999

The most comfortable transportation in America and the safest equipment in the world. This is Amtrak’s vision of high-speed rail service in the 21st Century—fast, reliable, safe transportation between Boston and Washington at speeds up to 150 mph.

Travel times between New York and Boston will be reduced to just 3 hours and to 2 hours and 45 minutes or less between New York and Washington. Read on to learn about the new generation of trains and improvements to infrastructure we’re making to bring this vision to reality.
Amtrak High-Speed Rail

A New Century – A New Way To Travel

GETTING YOU ON BOARD FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Fast, Frequent, Reliable Service
- Reduced trip times between all stations on the Northeast Corridor
- Hourly trains between Boston and New York and two trains each hour between New York and Washington
- Flexible travel times and better amenities
- Excellent on-time performance

Safest train in the world
- Amtrak’s Northeast Corridor is the safest rail line in the country
- The new trains, building on this tradition, will set safety standards worldwide
- Special designs and materials will protect passengers
- Onboard diagnostic systems will monitor train performance, alerting crews to changing conditions or automatically triggering safety responses

Customer Amenities
- Faster service, superior accommodations, wide seats and large restrooms
- 344 passenger capacity
- Elegant bistro cars and new menus
- Business travel amenities including phone and outlets for computers

Environmentally Friendly
- Electrification reduces air pollution, helping states comply with the Clean Air Act
- Upgrades to existing tracks will avoid enormous environmental consequences of new highway, airport and rail line construction
- Annual fuel consumption projected to drop by 14 million gallons with the switch to electric trains

Jobs
- Project construction and manufacturing will produce over 4,500 jobs locally and nationwide
- Improved rail service will generate nearly 5,000 jobs regionally

Congestion Relief
- Increased ridership eases congestion at airports and on I-95 and provides an alternative to airport and highway expansion
- Projected to reduce air passenger volume between New York and Boston by 37%
- Will reduce automobile traffic on I-95, particularly at rush hour

Boosting the Economy
- Some $440 million annually in increased business sales activity
- Enhances the region’s growing service economy
- Shorter trip times make Northeast Corridor cities attractive sites for locating businesses and homes

HIGH-SPEED TRIP TIME GOALS
Boston to New York
3 HOURS 00 MINUTES
New York to Washington
2 HOURS 45 MINUTES