

Freight Railroads & Amtrak

Freight railroads are committed to collaborating with passenger carriers such as Amtrak to maintain a healthy, vibrant U.S. rail network that meets the country's growing need to move people and goods.

Each year, freight railroads haul more than two billion tons of raw materials and finished goods and Amtrak moves tens of millions of people across an integrated, 140,000-mile rail network. In fact, 70% of the miles traveled by Amtrak trains are on tracks owned by freight railroads. Together, these railroads deliver even more for the nation; they alleviate highway congestion, employ hundreds of thousands of Americans, reduce pollution, promote local and regional economic development and improve transportation safety.

With the demand for freight expected to rise 35% by 2040, Amtrak moving record amounts of people in recent years, and continued market shifts, freight and passenger rail must work together to safely and efficiently move America forward.

Did You Know?

Congress created Amtrak in 1970 to guarantee viable intercity passenger rail for the nation. With more predictable and sufficient government funding, Amtrak and its state partners could improve reliability, enhance capacity, add service, increase speeds and reduce trip times.

- **Dedicated to Safety & Service:** Thanks in part to technology, strong operating procedures and ongoing training, railroads are an extremely safe and efficient way to move people and freight, with recent years being the [safest](#) for the rail sector.
- **Freight Rail Operations:** Privately owned freight railroads spend an average of \$25 billion each year on maintenance and capital improvements, which benefits Amtrak. Class I railroads employ 90% of U.S. railroad workers and account for 140,000 miles of the rail network. Roughly 1.68 million railcars move across the network every day.
- **Amtrak Operations:** [Amtrak](#) is the nation's only high-speed intercity passenger rail and serves more than 500 destinations, accounting for more than 21,400 miles. On an average day in 2018, Amtrak customers made nearly 87,000 trips on more than 300 Amtrak trains. Amtrak continues to modernize facilities and trains to enhance customer experience and improve operations.