



Biden Announces Amtrak Stimulus Programs at Washington Union Station

Further demonstrating the administration's support for passenger rail, Vice President Joe Biden hosted a track-side press conference at Washington Union Station on Friday to announce capital programs that will be funded through the \$1.3 billion provided to Amtrak via the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Joining Biden were Acting FRA Deputy Administrator Jo Strang, board of directors Vice Chairman Donna McLean and 11 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate.

"For too long we have failed to make the investments we should have been making in Amtrak in order to provide the kind of reliable and secure intercity rail service that our people depend on and our economy needs," said Vice President Biden.

Biden emphasized the necessity of a healthy passenger rail network to relieve highway congestion, reduce pollution and decrease energy needs.

Stimulus programs for Amtrak will include over \$400 million in capital improvements on the Northeast Corridor, including \$105 million to replace the Niantic River Bridge and \$63 million to improve reliability of electrical power.

A total of 68 passenger cars will be repaired and returned to service and \$100 million will be spent on improvements to stations and facilities throughout the system. Also included in the package is \$60 million to install Positive Train Control systems on the Michigan Line. Additionally, the recovery act will fund other technology projects along with security-related infrastructure and station improvements.

"The Vice President understands the importance of our company and we're honored that he personally came to make this announcement here at our corporate headquarters," said President and CEO Joe Boardman. "We have great opportunities ahead of us and we're ready to move on these projects to connect America in safer, greener and healthier ways."

The final FRA-approved list of capital programs to be funded through the stimulus is expected to be posted on the Internet at www.recovery.gov later this week.

Benefits: The federal government has increased the pre-tax mass transit limit from \$120 to \$230 per month. To increase your deduction, log onto amtrakbenefits.com or call 800-481-4887.

PSSA Reminder: Nominations for the 2009 President's Service and Safety Awards (PSSA) will be accepted through March 31. Forms are posted on the Intranet at "Employees" → "Awards and Achievements" → "2009 PSSA Nomination Forms."

Engineering: The Production Switch Exchange System, with the assistance of New York Division Engineering forces, will be completing the reconstruction of the No. 23 crossover at Union Interlocking in Rahway, N.J. this weekend.

Arrow Update: Beginning March 17, all Arrow users must have an eight-digit private ID that includes at least one letter and one number to enhance data security. Users without a complying ID will not be able to enter the system.

Marketing: Visit Amtrak.com to view new TV commercials airing in eight major cities promoting Amtrak train travel and *Acela Express* service. Click the "Family Travel" link in the right-hand margin or go to the *Acela* route page.

What's Your Green I.Q.?

How many tons of scrap metal from maintenance operations did Amtrak recycle last year?

- a.) 10
- b.) 100
- c.) 1,000
- d.) 5,000

E-mail the correct answer to ecom@amtrak.com. The winner will be selected at random from the first 50 correct responses received and will have his or her photo and answer published in the April "green" issue of *Amtrak Ink*. Employees with full-time environmental duties are not eligible.

Last week's winner was Harris Cohen, project manager, Customer Service Solutions, who correctly answered that Amtrak agreed to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 6 percent from 2003 to 2010.