



PRIME Grant Program

The Passenger Rail Improvement, Modernization, and Expansion (PRIME) grant program is a new funding tool proposed by Amtrak to finance an ambitious expansion of operations. The PRIME grant program would be used to finance Amtrak 2035, Amtrak’s vision for passenger rail service by 2035 (map on our webpage below).

New and Expanded National Service

The PRIME grants would finance a new wave of passenger rail infrastructure unseen in the modern era. With this financing option, Amtrak is proposing new service in numerous regions and states, including, but not limited to, Texas, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Arizona, Massachusetts, Missouri, Georgia, Ohio. Amtrak is also proposing additional or expanded service in states like Oklahoma, and Illinois.

Despite significant population growth and changes in where people live, the Amtrak system is largely similar to what it was 1971 when Amtrak was formed. As a result, this has left Amtrak with a network that has a high level of activity in the Northeast Corridor with 140 daily trains supporting 51 million people while the combined 49 million people in Texas and Florida have only 6 trains. The projects financed by the PRIME grants will be built across the contiguous United States in over thirty states in every region of the country— West, Midwest, South, New England, Mid-Atlantic. It would also bring Amtrak service to some of the most populous areas without intercity rail, like Las Vegas, Nevada; Nashville, Tennessee, Scranton/Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania; and Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Economic Benefits

The PRIME grants will drive significant economic benefits from both the direct construction of these projects to the indirect economic benefits of passenger rail service in a community. APTA found that approximately 49,700 jobs are created per billion invested in public transportation, meaning that PRIME could generate close to 190,000 jobs per year.

We Support

\$3.8 billion a year for 5 years. The PRIME program should also prioritize projects supported by multiple states.

For more information, visit scrantonrail.com/prime