

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
February 7, 2012

ATK-12-010  
Amtrak Contact: Marc Magliari  
312 544.5390  
MDOT Contact: Janet Foran  
517 335.7176

## AMTRAK 110 MPH MICHIGAN SERVICE GIVEN GREEN LIGHT Federal approval permits higher passenger train speeds on Amtrak-owned track between Kalamazoo, Mich., and Porter, Ind.

CHICAGO and LANSING, Mich. – Amtrak and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) have received federal approval to increase maximum speeds of Amtrak trains in western Michigan and northern Indiana to 110 mph following successful installation and testing of a positive train control safety system on Amtrak-owned track between Kalamazoo, Mich., and Porter, Ind.

Amtrak and MDOT will celebrate the faster service on Wednesday, February 15, with details to be announced.

“This is the first expansion of regional high speed rail outside the Amtrak-owned Northeast Corridor,” said President and CEO Joseph Boardman. “With our partners in Michigan, we will extend this 110 mph service from Kalamazoo to the state’s central and eastern regions in the coming years.”

“Our state put the world on wheels and continues to be a leading transportation innovator,” said MDOT State Transportation Director Kirk T. Steudle. “Recognizing changing demographics and a burgeoning interest in passenger rail travel, we are proud to be the first state outside the Northeast corridor to enable 110 mph service.”

Amtrak began raising speeds on this corridor from 79 mph in 2001 to 90 mph in 2002 and to 95 mph in 2005. Sustained operations at 110 mph will shave 10 minutes from the 95 mph schedules and about 20 minutes from the 2001 schedules on the Amtrak-owned segment of the corridor.

### FAST FACTS:

- Amtrak and MDOT have federal approval to increase maximum speeds of Amtrak trains in western Michigan and northwest Indiana to 110 mph.
- Amtrak and MDOT will announce details of a 2/15 event.
- Approval came after success with a safety system on Amtrak-owned track between Kalamazoo, Mich. and Porter, Ind.
- The speed is the highest allowed on Amtrak trains outside the Northeast Corridor. Amtrak *Wolverine Service* and *Blue Water* train passengers benefit.

- more -

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

Chicago Union Station, 500 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60661-5702 tel 312 544.5390 fax 202 799.NEWS MediaRelationsChicago@Amtrak.com

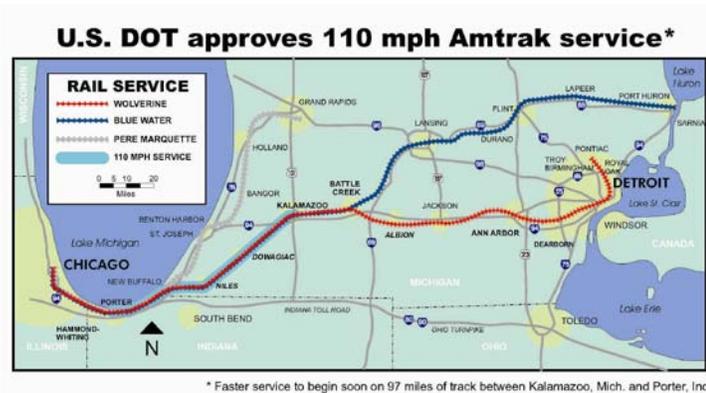
The Amtrak *Wolverine Service* -- with three daily round-trips between Pontiac and Chicago via Detroit and Ann Arbor -- and the Amtrak *Blue Water* -- daily between Port Huron and Chicago via East Lansing -- use this corridor. The Amtrak *Pere Marquette* uses a different route in Michigan to Grand Rapids.

Incremental Train Control System (ITCS) installed on the Amtrak-owned Michigan Line between Kalamazoo and Porter has been developed by General Electric Transportation Systems with assistance from Amtrak, MDOT

and the U.S. Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Last year, Amtrak extended ITCS coverage to the western and eastern ends of the line between New Buffalo and Porter and between Oshtemo and

Kalamazoo, completing the system

across 97 miles of track and permitting the higher speeds on about 80 miles of the route, 64 miles in Michigan and 16 in Indiana.



The successful deployment of ITCS on the Amtrak-owned route segment in western Michigan also sets the stage for the expansion of 110 mph service from Kalamazoo to near Dearborn on the track segment being purchased by MDOT from Norfolk Southern Railway.

Boardman also pointed out this is the first of two 110 mph “spokes” from the “Chicago hub,” with Amtrak and the Illinois Department of Transportation partnering on similar plans on the Chicago-St. Louis corridor where federal regulations also require the use of a train control safety technology.

**About Amtrak®:**

Celebrating 40 years of dedicated service as America’s Railroad® Amtrak is the nation’s intercity passenger rail provider and its only high-speed rail operator. A record 30.2 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2011 on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak operates trains in partnership with 15 states and four commuter rail agencies. Enjoy the journey<sup>SM</sup> at [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com) or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on [facebook.com/Amtrak](https://facebook.com/Amtrak) and follow us at [twitter.com/Amtrak](https://twitter.com/Amtrak).

**About MDOT:**

MDOT is responsible for a network of 10,000 miles of state trunkline roadways. This network, comprised of all I-, US-, and M-numbered routes in Michigan, carries 53 percent of all traffic and around 70 percent of all commercial traffic in the state. MDOT also is responsible for administering a comprehensive multimodal program that includes airports, intercity passenger services, rail freight, local public transit services, nonmotorized transportation and the state's Transportation Economic Development Fund. A safe, well-maintained, and efficient transportation system provides the backbone for all economic activity within the state. Join us on [facebook.com/MichiganDOT](https://facebook.com/MichiganDOT) and follow us at [www.twitter.com/michiganDOT](https://www.twitter.com/michiganDOT). On the Web at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot).

