

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Nov. 5, 2013

ATK-13-137
Contact: Marc Magliari
312 544.5390

MediaRelationsChicago@Amtrak.com

Illinois DOT Contact: Jae Miller
312 814.4693

Illinois DOT Contact: Paris Ervin
217 782.5025

ANOTHER EXTRA HELPING OF AMTRAK TRAINS FOR THANKSGIVING WEEKEND IN ILLINOIS Additional Chicago-Bloomington/Normal round-trip on Dec. 1

CHICAGO – In anticipation of its busiest travel week of the year, Amtrak is adding another Illinois round-trip train originating at mid-day on Dec. 1, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Amtrak will offer an additional northbound and southbound frequency on the Chicago-Bloomington/Normal segment of the Chicago-St. Louis corridor.

Ordinarily, Amtrak originates four daily [Lincoln Service](#) round-trips (Trains 300-307), plus the [Texas Eagle](#) (Trains 21/321/421 & 22/322/422) also serves most stops, providing a total of five daily round-trips on the Chicago-St. Louis corridor. The additional round-trip (Trains 308 & 309) will serve stations between Chicago and Bloomington/Normal, which are the two of the most popular destinations on the corridor.

The schedule with the additional round-trip is attached. In the last year, a new Amtrak record of 740,275 passengers was set on the corridor, a 10 percent increase from the previous year.

Yesterday, Amtrak also announced an additional round-trip on Dec. 1, [on the Chicago-Quincy corridor](#) served by the *Illinois Zephyr* and *Carl Sandburg* (Trains 380-383). These services are operated by Amtrak under a contract with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

“We are excited to announce this additional service,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider. “The addition of more trips during this busy time will allow passengers to get to their destinations safely and quickly, allowing more time to spend with loved ones during the holiday season.”

The holiday is the busiest travel week of the year, and to accommodate the expected surge of riders, America’s Railroad® will operate every available passenger rail car in its fleet and is scheduling extra trains and adding capacity on other routes.

- 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 busiest travel days are the Tuesday and Wednesday before Thanksgiving and the Sunday after the holiday. Other than Thanksgiving Day, morning trains typically have more available seats than those in the afternoon and evening.

Nationally, Amtrak carried a record 737,537 passengers during the 2012 Thanksgiving travel period, up 1.9 percent over the previous year and the prior record set in 2011.

(special schedule follows)

Amtrak Thanksgiving Holiday 2013 Schedule Chicago-Bloomington/Normal-Springfield-St. Louis

301	303	309	21/321/421	305	307	↓	Dec. 1, 2013, ONLY	↑	300	302	22/322	308	304	306
7:30 AM	9:25 AM	10:30 AM	1:45 PM	5:15 PM	7:00 PM	Dp	Chicago	Ar	9:25 AM	12:20 PM	1:52 PM	3:35 PM	8:40 PM	11:10 PM
↓	9:46 AM	10:52 AM	↓	5:35 PM	7:20 PM	Dp	Summit	Dp	8:49 AM	11:44 AM	↑	3:12 PM	7:51 PM	10:27 PM
8:23 AM	10:11 AM	11:23 AM	2:40 PM	6:01 PM	7:46 PM	Dp	Joliet	Dp	8:24 AM	11:19 AM	12:59 PM	2:45 PM	7:26 PM	10:02 PM
↓	10:46 AM	11:58 AM	↓	6:36 PM	8:21 PM	Dp	Dwight	Dp	7:42 AM	10:32 AM	↑	2:03 PM	6:41 PM	9:22 PM
↓	10:59 AM	12:11 PM	3:27 PM	6:49 PM	8:34 PM	Dp	Pontiac	Dp	7:24 AM	10:14 AM	11:39 AM	1:44 PM	6:23 PM	9:04 PM
9:36 AM	11:31 AM	12:44 PM	4:04 PM	7:21 PM	9:06 PM	Dp	Bloomington/Normal	Dp	6:56 AM	9:46 AM	11:08 AM	1:15 PM	5:56 PM	8:36 PM
↓	12:07 PM		4:37 PM	7:57 PM	9:42 PM	Dp	Lincoln	Dp	6:25 AM	9:05 AM	10:25 AM		4:24 PM	8:00 PM
10:36 AM	12:33 PM		5:14 PM	8:25 PM	10:10 PM	Dp	Springfield	Dp	5:57 AM	8:37 AM	9:55 AM		4:56 PM	7:32 PM
↓	1:25 PM		5:49 PM	9:14 PM	10:59 PM	Dp	Carlinville	Dp	5:15 AM	7:55 AM	9:15 AM		4:14 PM	6:45 PM
11:46 AM	1:53 PM		6:22 PM	9:44 PM	11:29 PM	Dp	Alton	Dp	4:45 AM	7:25 AM	8:43 AM		3:45 PM	6:15 PM
12:33 PM	2:41 PM		7:21 PM	10:26 PM	12:11 AM	Ar	St. Louis	Dp	4:00 AM	6:40 AM	7:55 AM		3:00 PM	5:30 PM

About Amtrak®

Amtrak is America’s Railroad®, the nation’s intercity passenger rail service and its high-speed rail operator. Amtrak and its state and commuter partners move people, the economy and the nation forward. Formally known as the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak is governed by a nine member board of directors appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Anthony R. Coscia is board chairman and Jeffrey R. Moreland is vice chairman. In FY 2013, a record 31.6 million passengers traveled on Amtrak 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. Enjoy the journey® at Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/Amtrak), Follow us on Twitter [@Amtrak](https://twitter.com/Amtrak) and check out our blog at blog.amtrak.com.

About Illinois DOT

The Illinois Department of Transportation provides safe, cost-effective transportation for Illinois in ways that enhance quality of life, promote economic prosperity, and demonstrate respect for our environment. Illinois DOT provides leadership throughout Illinois for the improvement and coordination of the state’s multi-faceted transportation system and serves as an advocate and trusted adviser to local governments and other community agencies involved in providing transportation access and services for all of Illinois. For more information, visit www.dot.il.gov/.

###