

# FACT SHEET



S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 9

## NEW PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE COMES TO LYNCHBURG AND CENTRAL VIRGINIA

### ABOUT THE SERVICE

Amtrak® Virginia expands daily roundtrip train service aboard the Northeast Regional<sup>SM</sup> between Lynchburg, Washington, D.C. and points north along the Northeast Corridor. It marks the first time in history that Amtrak service originates in Lynchburg – offering a one-seat ride all the way up to Boston. The new service is also significant because it provides communities along the I-81/Route 29 corridors with more travel options and direct links to numerous destinations in the Northeast.

The new service is sponsored by the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide more transportation options for Virginians.

**New service originating from Lynchburg begins October 1, 2009. Key departure times shown are for weekdays. Weekend times vary slightly. Ticket prices vary depending on the day, time of day and when travel reservations are made. The fare ranges below apply to coach class.\***

Stations	Departures M-F	Washington, D.C.	Baltimore	Philadelphia	New York City	Boston
Lynchburg	7:38 AM	\$38 to \$74	\$48 to \$95	\$71 to \$140	\$88 to \$173	\$95 to \$185
Charlottesville	8:49 AM	\$29 to \$56	\$45 to \$88	\$66 to \$129	\$80 to \$157	\$94 to \$185
Culpeper	9:42 AM	\$16 to \$32	\$31 to \$60	\$51 to \$100	\$77 to \$150	\$94 to \$185
Manassas	10:21 AM	\$14 to \$26	\$30 to \$58	\$50 to \$94	\$74 to \$143	\$94 to \$185
Burke Centre**	10:36 AM	–	–	–	–	–
Alexandria	11:05 AM	\$14 to \$26	\$30 to \$58	\$50 to \$93	\$74 to \$143	\$87 to \$168

\* Passengers who book travel on the new train by October 31, 2009 and travel by December 19, 2009, may take advantage of a fare promotion, which offers up to 25 percent off the lowest published coach fare on Northeast Regional service between Lynchburg and Boston.

\*\*Burke Centre station provides connecting service to Virginia Railway Express passengers only.

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## **BENEFITS**

- More transportation choices – The service offers convenience and a more comfortable way to travel. With a one-seat ride as far as Boston, it's easy to book business travel, a weekend getaway, a family visit or college trips. For leisure travelers, the service provides a great way to visit sights in Virginia and north of Washington without having to face long traffic delays, particularly in Northern Virginia where heavy construction projects are underway.
- Better reliability – Service originating in Lynchburg ensures more reliable, on-time departures from Lynchburg and other stops in Virginia while doubling the available passenger rail service for Central Virginia residents.
- Stronger economy – The service benefits economic development and potential for long-term growth in the I-81/Route 29 corridors.
- Improved mobility and a cleaner environment – The new route represents the first phase of intercity passenger rail service improvements in the I-81/Route 29 corridors. In December 2009, Amtrak Virginia will launch a new Richmond route. At full implementation, the new routes are estimated to remove 1.4 million cars from highways, save more than 8.3 million gallons of fuel and save 66,000 tons of carbon emissions each year.

## **ABOUT AMTRAK VIRGINIA**

- Amtrak Virginia is a program developed by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and Amtrak to provide more rail travel choices in Virginia. The Commonwealth is investing in intercity passenger rail service through Amtrak to bring this new service to Virginia. Both routes – originating from Lynchburg and Richmond – will be funded as demonstration projects for three years. After three years, a dedicated funding source must be identified to continue to operate the service.
- With this pilot program, Virginia joins 14 other states in the U.S. that already contract with Amtrak for intercity passenger rail service.

## **DEMAND FOR PASSENGER RAIL IN VIRGINIA**

- In Virginia, Amtrak operates more than 20 trains daily from 21 train stations across the state. Over 1 million passenger trips were made from Virginia locations in fiscal year 2008.
- Demand for passenger rail is growing in Virginia, particularly in major metropolitan areas, as traffic congestion, fuel costs and environmental concerns make train travel a more attractive option. Amtrak's Northeast Corridor is the busiest railroad in North America with more than 2,600 trains that carried almost 11 million passengers in fiscal year 2008. In fact, Amtrak's Northeast Corridor trains carry more traffic than all air carriers in the region combined.