



SUSQUEHANNA RIVER RAIL BRIDGE PROJECT

Modernizing the Northeast Corridor



Amtrak is entering a new era of intercity passenger rail investment supported by the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Advancing megaprojects like the Susquehanna River Rail Bridge Project will ensure continued connectivity along the Northeast Corridor (NEC) and enable plans for expanding rail service in the region and across the nation.

The Susquehanna River Rail Bridge is a vital piece of infrastructure serving the NEC, which is the most heavily used passenger rail line in the U.S.—both in terms of ridership and service frequency. This Project will improve rail connectivity along the NEC by replacing the aging two-track moveable bridge with two new fixed bridges (four tracks total) over the Susquehanna River between the City of Havre de Grace in Harford County, Maryland and the Town of Perryville in Cecil County, Maryland. Amtrak kicked off pre-construction activities in Summer 2024 and plans to break ground on this critical project in the second half of 2025.

The Project will modernize and improve five miles of track, catenary, signals, and three interlockings. The new bridges will seamlessly serve passenger and freight train needs, allowing people and goods to get to their destinations faster. The Project has been designed to accommodate the future expansion of passenger rail service and to improve the navigation channel for marine users.



The existing bridge was built in 1906 and is nearing the end of its useful life. The aging infrastructure creates speed and capacity constraints, operational inflexibility, maintenance difficulties, and conflicts with marine traffic.

PROJECT BENEFITS



Improve on-time performance and safety



Increase maximum speed from 90 mph to 160 mph



Eliminate conflicts with boats



Increase track capacity along Northeast Corridor

Faster & More Reliable Service

By eliminating this two-track bottleneck, the Project will improve rail service reliability and reduce the number of train delays. It will reduce travel times, ensure continued connectivity along the NEC, and provide additional capacity to accommodate future operations.

Dedicated High-Speed Tracks

In addition to Amtrak's intercity passenger rail service (up to 90 trains per day), the existing bridge serves up to 14 daily Maryland Area Regional Commuter (MARC) trains and up to 10 daily Norfolk Southern freight trains. CSX also has operational rights on the current and future bridges. The Project will provide two tracks dedicated for Amtrak service, with two additional tracks to be used primarily for MARC and freight allowing for smoother operations and higher top speeds.

Improved Maritime Navigation & Safety

The existing bridge has a functionally obsolete swing-span design that must be opened manually to allow taller marine traffic to pass. Each opening disrupts both rail and marine operations. The Project will provide 60 feet of vertical clearance and 235 feet of horizontal clearance, remove navigational obstacles, and eliminate conflicts between rail and maritime operations.

Environmental Responsibility

A detailed Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared per the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to evaluate the Project's potential environmental and cultural benefits and impacts. The EA was shared with the public and regulatory agencies for review and input. Amtrak then agreed to a series of rigorous environmental commitments, which are currently being implemented.

Community Partnership

Amtrak strives to be a good neighbor in the communities it serves by raising awareness of projects, being present at various local events and programs, and partnering with community groups to make a positive impact. The Project has implemented a comprehensive community engagement program that began during the early planning phase and will continue throughout construction.



Amtrak prioritizes partnership and communication. To that end, the Project team has embarked on a series of briefings and meetings to ensure all stakeholders are kept up to date and engaged.

Learn more about this and other ways Amtrak is investing in a new era of rail at [Amtrak.com/NewEra](https://www.amtrak.com/NewEra)

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