



NEWSRELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amtrak and states celebrate *Borealis* reaching a quarter-million riders – and beyond Milestone passed during the July 4 holiday weekend

CHICAGO and ST. PAUL, Minn. – Amtrak carried its 250,000th guest on state-sponsored [Borealis](#) trains between the Twin Cities and Chicago over the Independence Day 2025 holiday weekend.

"Thanks to the support of our partners, we're honored to have more than a quarter-million customers, and counting, travel on the *Borealis* train this past year," said [Amtrak President Roger Harris](#). "Some of these guests have never before used Amtrak. Now all of them can enjoy the benefits of train travel while avoiding the long drive on Interstate 94."

Operated daily by Amtrak under contracts with the Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois state transportation departments, guests and officials have been celebrating a comfortable and reliable service that has routinely exceeded expectations since the [daily service began on May 23, 2024](#).

"A quarter of a million riders demonstrate the desire for safe, equitable and reliable transportation options in Minnesota," said Minnesota Transportation Commissioner [Nancy Daubenberger](#). "We remain pleased and encouraged by the early success of the *Borealis* and look forward to its continued growth."

"The *Borealis* continues to be a success story in Wisconsin and our partner states," said Wisconsin Transportation Secretary [Kristina Boardman](#). "This 250,000-rider milestone clearly demonstrates the need for safe, reliable and efficient passenger rail travel options."

"We are excited to see riders take advantage of this service to explore communities throughout our great state and neighboring cities like Chicago and the Twin Cities."

"We're excited to mark another milestone for the *Borealis* service," said Illinois Transportation Secretary [Gia Biagi](#). "As a co-sponsor of the service, we view a quarter of a million riders as proof that our investments in regional transit make a real difference in the lives of people all across the Midwest."

[More>>>](#)

Borealis trains originate from St. Paul at midday and Chicago in the late morning with Amtrak [everyday discounts](#) for children ages 2-12, students, seniors, veterans, military personnel and families, groups, and others. The trains offer café service featuring regional items and views of the Mississippi River between St. Paul and La Crosse, Wisc.

About Amtrak®

For more than 50 years, Amtrak has connected America and modernized train travel. Offering a safe, environmentally efficient way to reach more than 500 destinations across 46 states and parts of Canada, Amtrak provides travelers with an experience that sets a new standard. Book travel, check train status, access your eTicket and more through the [Amtrak app](#). Learn more at [Amtrak.com](#) and connect with us on [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

About WisDOT

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) was officially established in 1967. It provides leadership in the development of a safe and efficient multimodal transportation system for the people of Wisconsin and the state's many visitors. Learn more about WisDOT at [wisconsindot.gov](#) and connect with WisDOT on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [YouTube](#) to stay up to date on the latest transportation news in Wisconsin.

About MnDOT

Created in 1976, the [Minnesota Department of Transportation](#) (MnDOT) oversees transportation by all modes including land, water, air, rail, walking and bicycling. Its mission is to connect and serve all people through a safe, equitable and sustainable transportation system. Stay connected to MnDOT through [our Social Hub](#).

About IDOT

The [Illinois Department of Transportation](#) (IDOT) has statutory responsibility for the planning, construction, operation and maintenance of Illinois' extensive transportation network, which encompasses highways and bridges, airports, public transit, rail freight and rail passenger systems. This vast transportation system supports the fifth largest state in the nation and more than 100 million visitors annually. [IDOT's Stay Connected](#) page serves as an interactive hub to facilitate transportation news, events, video and photo galleries, and to promote information through social media platforms targeting all transportation stakeholders.

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