

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2010

ATK-10-116a
Contact: Marc Magliari
312 880.5390

AMTRAK IS THE WAY TO HAVE MORE FUN DURING THE LAST HOLIDAY OF THE SUMMER Additional Chicago and West Michigan departures for Labor Day Weekend

CHICAGO – Why labor through traffic and tolls during Labor Day Weekend when Amtrak is adding service between Chicago and Western Michigan? An early morning westbound train from Kalamazoo gets you to the Lake Michigan beaches or to Chicago in time to get breakfast and “Enjoy Illinois,” while a late evening eastbound train to Kalamazoo is “Pure Michigan,” to quote from each state’s tourism agency.

From September 2-6, five eastbound Amtrak trains will depart Chicago once in the morning, twice in the afternoon and twice in the evening, making stops in New Buffalo, Niles and Kalamazoo. From September 3-7, five westbound Amtrak trains will depart Kalamazoo three times in the morning, once in the afternoon and once in the evening. Some of these trains will also serve Hammond-Whiting and Michigan City, Ind., along with Dowagiac, Mich. See the attached schedules for details.

One way adult tickets between Chicago and Kalamazoo start at \$21. Up to two children ages 2-15 per adult can ride for half-fare.

The Amtrak *Wolverine Service* trains have been selling out -- even after adding additional coach and business class seats on the Chicago-Kalamazoo-Detroit/Pontiac corridor on weekends this year. For the period October 2009 through July 2010, more than 390,000 passengers rode the route, up nearly six percent from the previous year, with July 2010 ridership up nearly 23 percent from July 2009. This route in Western Michigan is shared with the Amtrak *Blue Water* to and from East Lansing and Port Huron, which is up 15 percent for the year, 50 percent in July.

This experiment is another example of Amtrak responding to market demands and adding service. Earlier this summer, Amtrak operated extra trains during Milwaukee’s Summerfest.

About Amtrak

As the nation’s intercity passenger rail operator, Amtrak connects America in safer, greener and healthier ways. Last fiscal year (FY 2009), the railroad carried 27.2 million passengers, making it

- more -

the second-best year in the company’s history. With 21,000 route miles in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces, Amtrak operates more than 300 trains each day—at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph)—to more than 500 destinations. Amtrak also is the partner of choice for state-supported corridor services in 15 states and for several commuter rail agencies. Visit Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information.

AMTRAK WEST MICHIGAN LABOR DAY HOLIDAY SERVICE

350	352	364	354	356	STATION	357	351	365	353	355
7:30 AM	12:16 PM	4:10 PM	6:00 PM	10:00 PM	Chicago	7:30 AM	11:24 AM	11:59 AM	4:16 PM	11:03 PM
<i>7:55 AM</i>	<i>12:41 PM</i>	↓	↓	↓	Hammond-Whiting	6:58 AM	↑	↑	3:23 PM	10:23 PM
↓	<i>1:22 PM</i>	↓	<i>7:03 PM</i>	11:04 PM	Michigan City	6:11 AM	↑	↑	↑	9:38 PM
9:49 AM	↓	6:23 PM	8:16 PM	<i>12:15 AM</i>	New Buffalo	6:58 AM	↑	11:34 AM	3:43 PM	10:25 PM
10:14 AM	2:57 PM	6:51 PM	8:43 PM	<i>12:41 AM</i>	Niles	6:33 AM	↑	11:09 AM	3:19 PM	10:00 PM
10:25 AM	↓	7:03 PM	↓	<i>12:54 AM</i>	Dowagiac	6:19 AM	↑	10:54 AM	↑	9:47 PM
11:00 AM	3:43 PM	7:42 PM	9:32 PM	1:29 AM	Kalamazoo	5:50 AM	9:50 AM	10:23 AM	2:36 PM	9:18 PM

Notes:

Even-numbered trains are eastbound, read down, schedules effective only September 2-6, 2010

Odd-numbered trains are westbound, read up, schedules are effective only September 3-7, 2010

Chicago, Hammond and Michigan City on Central Time, All Others on Eastern Time

Train may depart before intermediate times shown in *italics*

###