



An Overview of Amtrak's Great American Stations Project

October 2018



Who We Are and What We Do

- Created in 2006 to educate communities on the benefits of redeveloping train stations, offer tools in this effort and provide the appropriate Amtrak points of contact.
- Amtrak does not own most of the 500+ stations it serves: multi-layered ownership patterns account for the land, structure, platform, rails and parking.
- Communities often drive station projects from start to finish, with Amtrak and other stakeholders providing guidance and feedback.
- GASP provides a clearinghouse for this info and makes it easy for communities to contact us before they invest significant time and money in a major station project.



Arcadia, Mo., joins the Amtrak network in 2016.



Community Tools: Case Studies

CIVIC PRIDE | KIRKWOOD, MO AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENTS | CUT BANK, MT KIRKWOOD STATION CUT BANK DEPOT HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN | ST. PAUL, MN GREAT AMERICAN UNION DEPOT The wood frame Cut Bank depot of their local communities for generations; 1918. Its design is reminiscent of a uildings as focal points for highlighting architecture of early lodges and b re the train station serves as the center of When the historic depot was threatened BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS When Cut Bank Mayor Doug Embody took off er to preserve a piece of their history and 2010, one of his first initiatives was to re-estat town's Beautification Committee in a drive to public areas. Following the renovation of a d Located in a neighborhood in the midst of a classic urban renaissance, Union park and installation of new sidewalks, atter Depot is emblematic of initiatives to integrate transportation, land use and to the condition of the old depot. Located it "More than ten years ago Kirkwood environmental planning for robust development. of town and therefore highly visible to trav residents decided it was important to building "was an eyesore," recalls Embody. **REVITALIZATION EFFORTS** integrating passenger rail, local and intercity bus, preserve our train station. It shows the In 2002, the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority pedestrian, bicycle, personal vehicle and light rail true spirit of Kirkwood that we found Years of harsh winters and prairie winds i (RCRRA) formed a group of stakeholders (LOCATE), access paint and an overall shabby appearance a way to keep our station and share made up of business and civic leaders charged with and the Beautification Committee decid our love of the trains that have been so locating a potential multimodal transportation terminal Integrating modern electrical, telecommunication and refurbishing the local landmark."Our co in downtown St. Paul, Minnesota, Union Depot, listed on mechanical systems throughout the historic building important to our town's history." lot to offer, but that wasn't reflected in the National Register of Historic Places, was envisioned presented the project team with opportunities to be Embody. A resident with experience in as a viable building to provide integrated access to a creative by using existing historic infrastructure. For took a photo of the building and over

robust transportation system serving the region and paint schemes to help the committee the Upper Midwest, RCRRA purchased the 33-acre site in 2005, and the building reopened as a multimodal transportation hub on December 8, 2012.

proposed changes.

AESTHETIC IMPROVEMENT

WORKING WITH A HISTORIC PROPERTY

In January 2011, the transformation from neglected train station to state-of-the-art multimodal transportation hub began. The RCRRA managed the holistic approach to the \$243 million construction project and worked closely with the city's Heritage Preservation Commission and the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office throughout the renovation

Design and engineering teams were charged with

HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN | ST. PAUL, MN

example, radiator stations located throughout the head house were repurposed to hide electrical and telecom

"The Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority made sustainability a priority for Union Depot's renovation, restoration and construction. That required us to balance historical integrity with modern efficiencies. The LEED Gold standard achieved at Union Depot is a testament to creative and effective problem solving."

- Rafael E. Ortega, chai

Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority

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ngers and visitors and gladly tell them about

THEMES

- **Civic Pride**
- •



Cultural Space & Museums **Economic Development Historic Preservation Tourism Growth Commercial Use**

Improvements

Architectural & Aesthetic

Community Tools: Planning



GREAT AMERICAN STATIONS DEVELOPMENT CHECKLIST

Use this checklist to help you and your community move forward in your renovation and/or restoration efforts. Additionally, please contact your Amtrak Government Affairs representative to inform him or her about your proposed project. The Government Affairs employee will bring the project to the attention of other relevant Amtrak departments and the host railroad to help ensure your project moves ahead.

Notify your state Department of Transportation (DOT) of your project to better understand how it may fit into the state's transportation plan.

Check with your local historic commission and State Historic Preservation Office to determine if your depot or parcel is designated historic.

Work with Amtrak Engineering and Stations Planning personnel, through the Amtrak Government Affairs representative, who can assess the feasibility of your project and provide guidance on platform length and height and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) matters.

rehabilitating an older structure, schedule a building assessment

\Box	If rehabilitating an order and including:			
		□ exterior		🗆 civil
		□ roof	LI HVAC	electrical
	□ parking	security	ADA accessibility	general code
	☐ fire protection			

Direct the project architect to the Amtrak Standard Program and Planning Guidelines and Signage Guidelines at www.greatamericanstations.com.

Contact your municipal planning department to ensure the station project adheres to local zoning and building codes; seek amendments if necessary

MTRAK

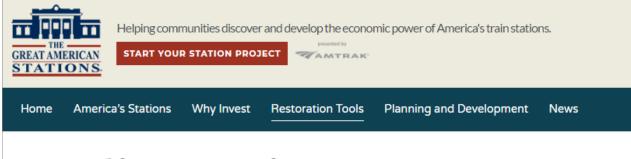
- Contact the Great American Stations Project and your state DOT for information about possible state and federal funding.
- Work with the host railroad to determine how much liability insuranc is needed since construction will take place near active tracks; be sur factor the cost of a flagman into your project budget.







Community Tools: Grants



Funding Options

A combination of local, state and federal resources fund most station improvement and new construction projects.



The city of East Lansing, Mich., the Capital Area Transportation Authority and Michigan State University won a \$6.28 million grant in 2012 to support construction of a new multimodal facility served by Amtrak, local and intercity buses. The grant was funded through the Federal Transit Administration's Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative.

Funds might be obtained through grants, loans, and tax credits. The purpose of each resource is different and the approach you take in planning your station project will determine your best option. A station owner might reevaluate a project to consider ways to make it eligible for greater funding.

Multimodalism, in which various transportation modes are linked together in one interconnected system, has long been a goal of federal transportation funding. When contemplating a station project, consider how it could benefit riders across many modes. For example, intercity passenger rail, commuter rail and local bus riders would all benefit



Surface Transportation Block Grant **Program: Transportation Alternatives** (TA) Set-Aside

Filing Date:

Varies; contact your state DOT or local FHWA official for more information.

Eligibility:

Funds are allocated to the state DOT which in turn disburses the funds to project sponsors. In general, a sponsor is an organization with the authority to tax and could include local governments, regional transportation authorities, transit agencies, public land agencies, tribal governments and any other local or regional governmental entity. Under the FAST Act, nonprofit entities responsible for the administration of local transportation safety programs are now able to apply for TA funds.

Oftentimes, non-profit organizations or community groups that wish to sponsor a TA project will submit an application in partnership with a local government. Consult your state TA officer for further information.

Description:

This program provides funding opportunities to help expand transportation choices and enhance the transportation experience through 10 eligible activities related to surface transportation, including historic preservation and vegetation management in transportation rights-of-way. Funds can also be used for the construction, planning and design of transportation projects to achieve compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Restoration Tools

Preserving Your Depot Getting Your Project Started **Funding Options** Grants, Loans and Credits

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program: Transportation Alternatives (TA) Set-Aside

Fixed Guideway Capital Investment Grants (Sec. 5309)

Urbanized Area Formula Grants (Sec. 5307 and 5340)

Formula Grants for Rural Areas (Sec. 5311)

Metropolitan and Statewide and Non-Metropolitan Transportation



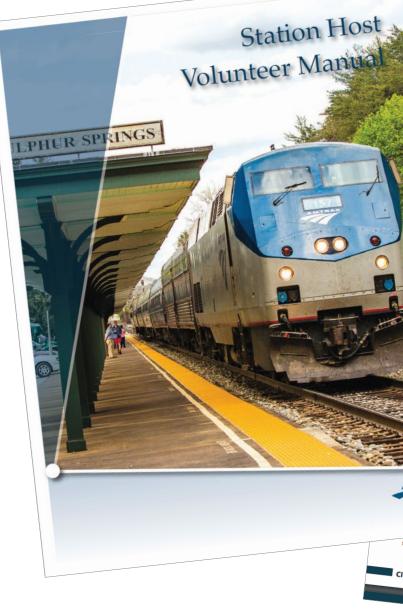
Community Tools: Station Host Volunteer Programs

Station Host Volunteer Manual

- Reflects best practices as developed by established programs.
- Assists local governments, transportation authorities and rail advocates.

Contents

- Getting Started
- Success Stories & Case Studies
- Sample Association Manual
 - Constitution and bylaws;
 - Station host role;
 - Safety in and around the station; and
 - General Amtrak policies.



CIVIC PRIDE | NORTH CAROLINA NORTH CAROLINA TRAIN HOST ASSOCIATION





Amtrak operates the *Piedmont* service (Charlotte-Raleigh) under contract e state; all *Piedmont* equipment is newly refurbished and state-owned. arolina also contracts with Amtrak to operate the *Carolinian* (Charlottet), which operates with Amtrak-owned equipment

STATEWIDE PROGRAM

na Department of Transportation les state-supported rail service througi ves, including the North Carolina 10n. Volunteer Train Hosts assist d Piedmont trains and the Carolinian s route within state boundaries. The des Station Hosts who offer similar



are North Carolina Train tate's three busiest stations - Raleigh, Charlotte - - - "The pride that our North Carolina Train Host Association volunteers take in their organization and their role as goodwill ambassadors is an invaluable asset to our program. We are very grateful for their hard work and support and are proud to be associated with them?"

ley, CPM, Director NCDOT Rail Division

Station Hosts answer travelers' questions, describe points of interest, provide local transportation options, promote rail safety and serve in general as "goodwil ambassadors" for the state and Amtrak. They also assist

VIC PRIDE | NORTH CAROLINA TRAIN HOST ASSOCIATION

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Community Tools: News and Information

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Revitalizing America's Train Stations

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Raleigh Transit Center Sparks Development

Work is progressing on a new \$79.8 million multimodal transit center in downtown Raleigh, N.C. Expected to open in early 2018, it will be an anchor for the citv's revitalizing Warehouse District. It will include a large waiting room and enhanced amenities for Amtrak passengers, a center island platform with level-boarding, an enclosed concourse, commercial space and a public plaza

Sacramento

Unveiled

Welcome Center and Community Room Keep Depot Bustling

In beautiful Southern Pines, N.C., - located in the famed Sandhills area renowned for its golf courses - the historic 1898 railroad station is the center of the popular downtown shopping and dining district. Served by the daily Silver Star (New York-Tampa-Miami), the depot includes an Amtrak passenger waiting area, station master's office, community room and the Southern Pines Welcome Center

The Great American Stations Project recently interviewed Suzanne Coleman, president of Welcome to Southern Pines Inc., the non-profit organization that operates the Welcome Center, to learn more about how the depot serves as a community gateway. Volunteers staffing the Welcome Center greet visitors from across the United States and the world.





America's Stations Why Invest Restoration Tools Planning and Development News

Great American Stations News

Centennial Celebration for Salem Depot

SALEM, ORE. - On Sept. 25, 2018, community members were joined by officials from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and rail enthusiasts to celebrate the centennial of the...



Art Gallery Moves Into Westerly Station WESTERLY, R.I. - In August 2018, the Westerly depot became the new temporary home of the



The New York Times Highlights Station Revitalization

The New York Times recently published an article chronicling the lives of seven Midwestern communities and their train stations, including Cincinnati Union Terminal and Kansas City Union Station, which were transformed...



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ΑΜΤΡΑΚ

Success Stories: Norman, Okla.

- Depot is home to the non-profit Performing Arts Society
 - Creates fine arts programming including artist exhibitions, poetry readings, musical performances and educational programs
 - ➢ 50+ events/year
 - Depot remains open during business hours
- Waiting room available for rent; holds up to 100 people
 - Approx. 450 rental hours/year
 - Rental income helps fund PAS operations, programming and administration.
- Acts as a keystone for larger downtown events.



Images: Performing Arts Studio



Success Stories: Mystic, Conn.

- Since 2016, the building has housed Mystic Depot Roasters, a café and gift shop.
- Amtrak customers have access to interior including restrooms.
- Lessees undertook an extensive rehabilitation project to prepare the space for food service.
- Upgraded electrical, plumbing and fire protection systems; installed accessible restrooms; patched the roof; and installed exhaust fans.
- Workers also refinished the floors and walls, repaired windows and painted the building inside and out.









Contact Us

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