

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AMTRAK TO CONDUCT ON BOARD BIKE PILOT IN VERMONT

MONTPELIER, Vt.—July 16, 2013—Amtrak is working with the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and a group of volunteers from bike advocacy organizations in Vermont to conduct a test run on the Ethan Allen Express and Vermonter lines to assess a new system for accommodating carry-on bikes this month. Pre-selected cyclists will board and exit at each stop along both routes to test ease of interaction with the various platforms and assess any difficulties in loading or unloading from the new racking system that will be in place in the Café cars.

“There has been great interest in finding a way to accommodate bikes on our trains for many years,” said VTrans Rail Director Dan Delabruere. “The absence of baggage cars has prevented us from getting bikes on board, but we hope that this new effort from Amtrak might lead to a more bike-friendly environment on-board.”

The test run will only accommodate up to four bicycles per station and only bicyclists who have pre-registered through the Vermont Bike Ped coalition are eligible to ride. The Vermonter line test will happen on Wednesday, July 17 and the Ethan Allan test will be Thursday, July 25.