



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Agency of Transportation to Host Celebratory Event for New Amtrak Ethan Allen Service in Burlington, Vergennes, and Middlebury

Barre, Vt. – The Vermont Agency of Transportation (AOT) will host a celebration on July 29 to mark the start of the expanded Amtrak Ethan Allen Express passenger rail service in Burlington, Ferrisburgh-Vergennes, and Middlebury.

The inaugural service will be celebrated with refreshments and live music beginning at 8:30 a.m. at Union Station, followed by a series of remarks by state and federal officials. The event will culminate in a ribbon-cutting event and the boarding of the Ethan Allen Express at 9:50 a.m. The train will depart at 10:10 a.m., marking the beginning of normal service from Burlington to New York City and carrying invited guests and the first ticketed passengers.

“After decades of work and over a hundred million dollars in state and federal investments, Friday’s re-opening of Amtrak services from downtown Burlington is an exciting day for Vermonters,” said Governor Phil Scott. “All of us here in Vermont are grateful for the support of our federal Department of Transportation partners, our Congressional delegation, state legislators, and countless rail advocates to bring this service to fruition. We are very proud of the collaborative efforts and widespread support to deliver passenger train service from Vermont’s largest city to New York City.”

“The long-awaited Amtrak service in Burlington, Ferrisburgh-Vergennes, and Middlebury is cause for celebration for all of us here in Vermont,” said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. “We are grateful to our partners in state and federal government, Vermont Rail System, and to the contractors and others in private industry who worked with us to complete the projects needed to bring passenger rail service to these new locations.”

Confirmed speakers for the event include Secretary of Transportation Joe Flynn as moderator, Governor Phil Scott, Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger, FRA Deputy Administrator Jennifer Mitchell, Amtrak Chief Executive Officer Stephen Gardner, Representatives of Vermont's Congressional Delegation, New York State Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, Vermont Senate Transportation Chair Richard Mazza, Vermont House Transportation Chair Diane Lanpher, and Vermont Rail System President Dave Wulfson.

“I am thrilled to welcome back train service from New York to Burlington’s downtown train station for the first time since 1953,” said Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger. “This new Amtrak service fills a 70-year-old city void, will give a boost to our economic recovery at a critical time, and will give travelers a lower-carbon connection to New York and the rest of the Amtrak system. I would like to congratulate the countless local, state, and federal officials, and the many advocates who, like my administration, worked tirelessly for many years to reestablish this vital transportation link.”

Celebratory events are also being hosted at Ferrisburgh-Vergennes, Middlebury, Rutland, and Castleton prior to the train’s arrival at those station on the morning of July 29.

Operation Lifesaver Vermont will host a table at the event to disseminate information about rail safety.

Governor Scott and other officials will be available for questions following remarks at the Burlington event, as the Governor’s weekly press conference.

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