

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Vermont Agency of Transportation announces Amtrak Burlington train parking location

Barre, Vt. – For three decades, Vermont has sought to bring Amtrak passenger service to Burlington. In 2021, Amtrak’s Ethan Allen Express train, which currently travels from New York City to Rutland, will extend service to Burlington, achieving a key goal of the Vermont State Rail Plan.

The Ethan Allen Express is expected to arrive in Burlington in the evening and depart southbound in the morning for New York City, with planned stops in Middlebury and Vergennes. The train will run seven days a week, 365 days a year. Burlington’s Union Station, located at the bottom of Main Street on Burlington’s waterfront, will be the northern stop for the train

Today, the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) announces a key decision to store the Amtrak train overnight in the Vermont Rail System (VRS) railyard south of Maple Street. Overnight storage of the Amtrak train in the railyard had been previously identified in a study conducted by the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission, but the prior cost was not advantageous, a new, workable solution has been found.

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger tasked his team to work with the Agency of Transportation to push for further examination of potential alternatives for the train parking location. Through consideration of additional public input and exhaustive evaluation of sites, and re-evaluation of the railyard footprint, a cost-effective means of storing the train in the railyard has been identified. The plan will not impact existing railyard operations and has the support of the parties. Because of the Amtrak overnight storage location in the railyard, the parties have agreed that a second track between Maple Street and College Street will not be required.

“This decision represents substantial assessment and collaboration by VTrans, the City of Burlington, and Vermont Rail System, as well as serious consideration of public response,” said Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn. “All parties agree that this is a sound decision, and we are excited to move forward to bring Amtrak passenger service to Burlington, Vergennes and Middlebury.”

“This is the great outcome for Burlington that achieves all the goals the City has had throughout this process,” said Mayor Weinberger. “Thanks to close collaboration between the City, the Vermont Agency of Transportation, and Vermont Rail Systems, we are restoring passenger rail service to downtown Burlington for the first time in decades, while also protecting the vibrancy of our waterfront, improving the Bike Path, and minimizing impacts on Burlington residents and businesses. I am very appreciative of the responsiveness, partnership and leadership of Secretary Flynn and Governor Scott on this effort. I look forward to seeing the Ethan Allen Express roll into the station in Burlington soon!”

More information and updates are available at <https://vtrans.vermont.gov/rail/amtrak-burlington>.