

Governor Phil Murphy

# In Advance of Busy Summer 2025 Travel Season, Governor Murphy, Amtrak, and NJ TRANSIT Hold Summit Highlighting Infrastructure and Equipment Improvements and Future Work

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*New Progress Report Released on the Joint Inspection, Maintenance, and Improvement Program for Amtrak's Infrastructure and NJ TRANSIT's Trains*

*Significant Upgrades From the Past Year Are Expected to Mitigate Major Service Disruptions to Avoid a Repeat of Incidents from May and June 2024*

*Since June 2024, Amtrak Has Completed More Than 9,500 Hardware Replacements Between Trenton and New York Penn Station*

*Amtrak Has Agreed to Welcome a Senior-Level NJ TRANSIT Staff Member Into The New York Penn Station Control Center*

**NEWARK** – Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT joined Governor Phil Murphy today for a working summit ahead of the busy summer 2025 travel season in New Jersey. During today's meeting, Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT presented a [new progress report](#) ([https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/nznatbb\\_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B\\_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff\\_YEVIf3v1FwoX\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/nznatbb_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff_YEVIf3v1FwoX$)) on the joint inspection, maintenance, and improvement program for Amtrak's infrastructure and NJ TRANSIT's trains.

Targeted work between the two agencies over the past year has produced significant upgrades that are expected to mitigate major service disruptions and address incidents that customers experienced in May and June of 2024.

"Over the past year, we have been working diligently to address many of the issues that riders endured during the summer of 2024," said **Governor Phil Murphy**. "In partnership with Amtrak, we have embarked on an ambitious effort to increase inspections, accelerate repairs, and expand funding for capital investments. We are pleased to announce today that Amtrak has now agreed to welcome a senior-level staff member with NJ TRANSIT into their New York Penn Station control center which will help the two agencies engage in continuous collaboration. We will continue to work together so we can ensure that the people of New Jersey get where they need to go – safely and on time."

"Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT customers should feel confident in their travel this summer thanks to the leadership from Governor Murphy and the New Jersey Congressional delegation, and all the hard work Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT teams accomplished this past year together to provide the reliable travel experience our customers deserve," said **Amtrak President Roger Harris** ([https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/3roatbb\\_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B\\_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff\\_YEVIf-U3Od1\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/3roatbb_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff_YEVIf-U3Od1$)). "But the job isn't done, as we have more improvements underway, and we are encouraged by the results so far that will lead to more upgrades and better service."

"NJ TRANSIT understands how vital dependable rail service is for the tens of thousands of customers who rely on the Northeast Corridor every day. Since last June, substantial progress has been made on infrastructure and equipment upgrades that should significantly lower the risk of experiencing a repeat of last summer's service issues," said **NJ TRANSIT President & CEO Kris Kolluri**. "We remain committed to making necessary schedule adjustments to support Amtrak's ongoing upgrades to the overhead wires ahead of the summer—essential work that strengthens the future of this corridor. Service reliability remains our top priority, and we deeply value our continued collaboration with Amtrak to deliver a better, more reliable travel experience for all our customers."

The execution of Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT's [joint action plan](#) ([https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/jkpatbb\\_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B\\_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff\\_YEVIf-s\\_Pvb0\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/jkpatbb_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff_YEVIf-s_Pvb0$)), under Governor Murphy's leadership, followed several major service disruptions in May and June 2024, together with a variety of smaller incidents that reduced service reliability on the Northeast Corridor (NEC) between Trenton and New York City. Following last June's public meeting with Governor Murphy, Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT outlined immediate actions, investigations, inspections, and repairs that both companies undertook together to address these issues and provided updates on these measures in [August](#) ([https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/zcqatbb\\_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B\\_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff\\_YEVIf8G9\\_rTSS\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/zcqatbb_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff_YEVIf8G9_rTSS$)) and [November](#) ([https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/f5qatbb\\_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B\\_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff\\_YEVIf2kVIC2K\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/f5qatbb_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff_YEVIf2kVIC2K$)). These comprehensive actions have greatly contributed to a noticeable decline in similar occurrences over the past several months, as NJ TRANSIT's on-time performance has returned to over 90%.

After completing more than \$12 million worth of work across this territory in Federal Fiscal Year 24, Amtrak is planning to invest more than \$40 million in this territory in Fiscal Year 25. Since November, as outlined in the latest report, Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT made or are scheduling the following improvements to execute on their joint plan:

- **Infrastructure Improvements:** Since June 2024, Amtrak has completed more than 9,500 hardware replacements between Trenton and New York Penn Station and has completed improvements at three substations to date, with work at eight others planned throughout the year. In addition, Amtrak is performing track, signal, and other work along the NEC in New Jersey, as well as rebuilding heavily utilized interlockings in New York Penn Station.
- **Increased Inspections:** NJ TRANSIT and Amtrak increased visual pantograph inspections and continued training for engineers on inspection and handling, including a second, more comprehensive round of helicopter inspections of the catenary and other electric signal systems.
- **Outage Collaboration:** Current and upcoming work focused on asset condition and usage, corresponding with key "hot spots" from summer 2024, will require schedule changes and outages to complete the work. Both Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT have agreed to service outages over the 12 weeks leading up to summer 2025 to minimize impacts to passengers and maximize the impact of the investments, including [recent adjustments to Raritan Valley Line schedules](#) ([https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/vxratbb\\_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B\\_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff\\_YEVIf3V3Wy6Q\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://t.e2ma.net/click/j0pd4m/nrddit/vxratbb_!!J30X0ZrnC1oQtba!OT2fTetqLU8cXh80wBC2U5JkCHhW14xV9Wzm8aDms8FlaOWFk8ultTR63B_Yp3lI5-07aB0mCff_YEVIf3V3Wy6Q$)).
- **NJ TRANSIT Equipment Upgrades:** NJ TRANSIT has invested more than \$1 billion dollars in 174 new Multilevel III rail cars currently on order, which will be equipped with Automatic Drop Devices (ADDs), similar to those on Amtrak trains, which will proactively drop a pantograph if it becomes damaged. This helps identify the section of track where the failure has occurred and will reduce the severity of an incident involving the overhead wires. An additional \$1 billion investment in an additional 200 new Multilevel III cars is planned for later this year. NJ TRANSIT has also installed new chip protectors on its entire fleet prior to summer to better protect against catenary

defects and impacts and enhance equipment resiliency. NJ TRANSIT is exploring engineering solutions with the rail car manufacturer to retrofit some of the existing fleet with ADDs.

- **Response Plans:** Enhanced NJ TRANSIT and Amtrak contingency response plans in the event of heat situations include strategic placement of protect crews and heat-forecast triggered catenary inspections. In addition, Amtrak's new summer readiness preparation protocols call for pre-emptive activities to be complete before May 31, incorporating data, Amtrak past practices, and international best practices to mitigate against common heat failures.
- **Customer Service:** NJ TRANSIT will continue investment in customer service, including improved real-time station and app announcements as well as deployment of customer care teams at Penn Station New York and Newark Penn Station on weekdays during the morning and evening peak periods.
- **Dispatching Enhancements:** NJ TRANSIT senior management personnel located in New York Penn Station Control Center will support coordination in dispatching and priorities during complex events and in support of on-time performance.
- **Other Actions:** Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT have retained Rutgers University/Applied Testing for joint testing of pantographs, which is currently underway with the participation of the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

In addition, Amtrak and NJ TRANSIT continue to work with the U.S. Department of Transportation and the FRA on the review of the \$112 million in Federal-State Partnership for the NEC grants that were awarded last year to Amtrak for three critical electric traction and signal projects in New Jersey with the financial support of NJ TRANSIT.

## Governor Phil Murphy

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