



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 10, 2012

ATK-12-079 Amtrak Media Relations 202 906.3860

SURGING AMTRAK RIDERSHIP SETS 11 CONSECUTIVE MONTHLY RECORDS Best September ever also expected

WASHINGTON –Amtrak ridership is surging this year with 11 consecutive monthly ridership records. In each month of the current fiscal year, Amtrak has posted the highest ridership total ever for that particular month (i.e., the best October ever, the best November ever, etc.) with the final month of September also expected to be a new record. In addition, July was the single best ridership month in the history of Amtrak.

"All across America the demand to travel by Amtrak is strong, growing and undeniable," said President and CEO Joe Boardman. "Amtrak continues to deliver on its mission to fulfill a vital national transportation need and does so with improved management and financial health."

Through 11 months of FY 2012 (October 2011 - August 2012), total Amtrak ridership is up 3.4 percent as compared to the same period last year. When the current fiscal year ends on September 30, Amtrak expects a new annual ridership record will be set, surpassing the current record of 30.2 million passengers established in FY 2011.

From FY 2002 to FY 2011, Amtrak ridership increased 44 percent and set new annual records in 8 of those 9 years. This long-term growth is occurring across the Amtrak national network and on all Amtrak business lines, including the Northeast Corridor, state-supported and other short-distance routes, and long-distance services.

About Amtrak®:

Amtrak is America's Railroad®, the nation's intercity passenger rail service and its high-speed rail operator. A record 30.2 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2011 on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak operates intercity trains in partnership with 15 states and contracts with 13 commuter rail agencies to provide a variety of services. Enjoy the journey® at <u>Amtrak.com</u> or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on <u>facebook.com/Amtrak</u> and follow us at <u>twitter.com/Amtrak</u>.

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