COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☑ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and *file it with the Clerk of the House by email at* gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please ***do not*** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: Avery Pierson
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
   b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: 8/18/2026 Return: 8/18/2026
   b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ ***OR*** ☒ None
4. Departure City: Washington, D.C. Destination: Baltimore, MD Return City: Washington, D.C.
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: Amtrak
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: Tour, discussion, and ride along of the new Next Gen acela train.
7. Attached to this form are ***each*** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
   a. ☒ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
   b. ☒ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor ***prior*** to the trip, ***including all*** attachments ***and*** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
   c. ☒ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; ***and***
   d. ☒ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ☒ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
   b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler: Avery Pierson Digitally signed by Avery Pierson Date: 2026.08.19 11:12:45 -04'00' **Date:** 8/19/2026

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: Rep. Tom Cole **Date:** August 19, 2026

Signature of Supervising Member: _____

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

SPONSOR POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM

☑ *Original* ☐ *Amendment*

This form must be completed by an officer of any organization that served as the primary trip sponsor in providing travel expenses or reimbursement for travel expenses to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. **A completed copy of the form must be provided to each House Member, officer, or employee who participated in the trip *within 10 days of their return.*** You must answer all questions, and check all boxes, on this form for your submission to comply with House Rules and the Committee's Travel Regulations. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the denial of future requests to sponsor trips and/or subject the current traveler to disciplinary action or a requirement to repay the trip expenses.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Sponsor(s) who paid or provided in-kind support for the trip: Amtrak
2. Travel Destination(s): Baltimore, MD; Washington, DC
3. Date of Departure: August 18, 2026 Date of Return: August 18, 2026
4. Name(s) of Traveler(s): See Attachment

   Note: You may list more than one traveler on a form only if ***all*** information is ***identical*** for each person listed.
5. **Actual amount** of expenses paid on behalf of, or reimbursed to, each individual named in Question 4:

	Total **Transportation** Expenses	Total **Lodging** Expenses	Total **Meal** Expenses	Total **Other** Expenses (dollar amount per item and description)
Traveler	$94.77	N/A	N/A	$11.21 Cost of a NextGen Acela Brochure, Notepad, and Pen
Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

6. ☐ All expenses connected to the trip were for actual costs incurred and not a *per diem* or lump sum payment. *Signify statement is true by checking box.*

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Ryan Casman **Date:** August 20, 2026

Name: Ryan Casman **Title:** Lead Specialist, Government Affairs

Organization: Amtrak

☐ ***I am an officer of the above-named organization. Signify statement is true by checking box.***

Address: 1 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC, 20001

Telephone: 202-368-7698 **Email:** Ryan.Casman@amtrak.com

Committee staff may contact the above-named individual if additional information is required.

If you have questions regarding your completion of this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103.

last updated 7/2023

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: Avery Pierson

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: Avery Pierson Digitally signed by Avery Pierson Date: 2026.07.15 09:24:17 -04'00'

Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): House Appropriations Committee

Office Address: 2358A Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515

Telephone Number: 202-309-2208

Email Address of Contact Person: avery.pierson@mail.house.gov

☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, *and* these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: *travel.requests@mail.house.gov*.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: Avery Pierson

2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: Amtrak

3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: Baltimore, MD

4. a. Date of Departure: 08/18/2026 Date of Return: 08/18/2026

   b. Yes ☐ No ☒ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?

   If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____

5. a. Yes ☐ No ☒ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**

   (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____

   (2) Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____

   (3) Yes ☐ No ☐ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?

6. a. Yes ☐ No ☒ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?

   b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

   _____

7. Yes ☒ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.

   NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.

8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

   As the professional staff member with the Amtrak account, oversight of the NextGen Acela will be helpful in understanding how our appropriations for the new rail cars are being implemented

9. **Yes ☐ No ☒ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**

10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member: _____ **Date:** July 15, 2026

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

   Amtrak

2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☒ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): See Attachment A

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: August 18, 2026 Date of Return: August 18, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
   b. Destination(s): Baltimore, MD
   c. City of return: Washington, DC
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☐ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☐ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☐ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   See Attachment B

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ☐ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): N/A (No meals will be provided)
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Washington Union Station and Baltimore Penn Station are locations that are convenient for a quick roundtrip along the Northeast Corridor.

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$94.77	$0	$0
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$11.21	NextGen Acela Brochure, Notebook, and Pen
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: _____ Date: August 12, 2026

Name: Ryan Casman Title: Lead Specialist, Government Affairs

Organization: Amtrak

Address: 1 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20001

Email: Ryan.Casman@amtrak.com Telephone: 202-368-7698

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515–6328
Telephone: (202) 225–7103
https://Ethics.House.gov

August 17, 2026

Ms. Avery Pierson
Committee on Appropriations
2358A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Pierson:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Baltimore, Maryland, scheduled for August 18, 2026, sponsored by Amtrak.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than $525 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:mc

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

PRIMARY TRIP SPONSOR FORM

This form should be completed by private entities offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to House Members, officers, or employees under House Rule 25, clause 5. A completed copy of the form (and any attachments) should be provided to each invited House Member, officer, or employee, who will then forward it to the Committee together with a *Traveler Form* **at least 30 days before the start date of the trip**. The trip sponsor should *NOT* submit the form directly to the Committee. The Committee's website (ethics.house.gov) provides detailed instructions for filling out the form. The Committee will notify the House invitees directly of its decision and will not notify the trip sponsors.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001. Failure to comply with the Committee's Travel Regulations may also lead to the denial of permission to sponsor future trips. Signatures must comply with section 104(bb) of the Travel Regulations.

1. Sponsor who will be paying for the trip:

   Amtrak

2. ☒ I represent that the trip will not be financed, in whole or in part, by a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent. *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

3. ***Check only one.*** I represent that:
   a. ☒ The primary trip sponsor has not accepted from any other source, funds intended directly or indirectly to finance any aspect of the trip; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip is arranged without regard to congressional participation and the primary trip sponsor has accepted funds only from entities that will receive a tangible benefit in exchange for those funds; **OR**
   c. ☐ The primary trip sponsor has accepted funds, services, or in-kind assistance from other source(s) intended directly or indirectly to finance all or part of this trip and has enclosed disclosure forms from each of those entities.

   If "c" is checked, list the names of the additional sponsors: _____

4. Provide names and titles of **ALL** House Members *and* employees you are inviting. **For each House invitee, provide an explanation of why the individual was invited** (include additional pages if necessary): See "House Staff Invitees and Rationale (Response to Question 4)" as noted in the attachment

5. Yes ☐ No ☒ Is travel being offered to an accompanying family member of the House invitee(s)?
6. Date of Departure: August 18, 2026 Date of Return: August 18, 2026
7. a. City of departure: Washington, DC
   b. Destination(s): Baltimore, MD
   c. City of return: Washington, DC
8. ***Check only one.*** I represent that
   a. ☐ The sponsor of the trip is an institution of higher education within the meaning of section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965; **OR**
   b. ☒ The sponsor of the trip does not retain or employ a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent; **OR**
   c. ☐ The sponsor employs or retains a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent, but the trip is for attendance at a one-day event *and* lobbyist / foreign agent involvement in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip was *de minimis* under the Committee's travel regulations.

9. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☐ I checked 8(a) or (b) above; **OR**
   b. ☐ I checked 8(c) above but am not offering any lodging; **OR**
   c. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for one night; **OR**
   d. ☐ I checked 8(c) above and am offering lodging and meals for two nights. If you checked this box, explain why the second night of lodging is warranted. _____

10. ☐ Attached is a detailed agenda of the activities House invitees will be participating in during the travel (i.e., an hourly description of planned activities for trip invitees). *Indicate agenda is attached by checking box.*

11. ***Check only one of the following.***
   a. ☐ I represent that a registered federal lobbyist or foreign agent will not accompany House Members or employees on any segment of the trip. *Signify the statement is true by clicking the box;* **OR**
   b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is a U.S. institution of higher education.

12. For ***each*** sponsor required to submit a sponsor form, describe the sponsor's interest in the subject matter of the trip ***and*** its role in organizing and/or conducting the trip:
   See "Primary Trip Sponsor Interest and Organizing Role (Response to Question 12)" as noted in the attachment

13. ***Answer parts a and b. Answer part c if necessary***:
   a. Mode of travel: Air ☐ Rail ☐ Bus ☐ Car ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   b. Class of travel: Coach ☐ Business ☐ First ☐ Charter ☐ Other ☐ (specify:_____)
   c. If travel will be first class, or by chartered or private aircraft, explain why such travel is warranted:

14. ☐ I represent that the expenditures related to local area travel during the trip will be unrelated to personal or recreational activities of the invitee(s). *Signify that the statement is true by checking box.*

15. ***Check only one.*** I represent that either:
   a. ☐ The trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation and that meals provided to congressional participants are similar to those provided to or purchased by other event attendees; **OR**
   b. ☐ The trip involves events that are arranged specifically *with regard* to congressional participation. If "b" is checked:
      1) Detail the cost *per day* of meals (approximate cost may be provided): N/A (No meals will be provided)
      2) Provide the reason for selecting the location of the event or trip: Washington Union Station and Baltimore Penn Station are locations that are convenient for a quick roundtrip along the Northeast Corridor for Hill staff

16. Name, nightly cost, and reasons for selecting each hotel or other lodging facility:
   Hotel Name: N/A City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____
   Hotel Name: _____ City: _____ Cost Per Night: _____
   Reason(s) for Selecting: _____

17. ☒ I represent that all expenses connected to the trip will be for actual costs incurred and not a per diem or lump sum payment. *Signify that the statement is true by checking the box.*

18. **Total Expenses for each Participant:**

☐ Actual Amounts ☒ Good Faith Estimates	Total **Transportation** Expenses per Participant	Total **Lodging** Expenses per Participant	Total **Meal** Expenses per Participant
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	$44.80	$0	$0
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	N/A	N/A

	Other Expenses (dollar amount per item)	Identify Specific Nature of "Other" Expenses (e.g., taxi, parking, registration fee, etc.)
For each Member, Officer, or Employee	N/A	
For each Accompanying Family Member	N/A	

19. ***Check only one:***
    a. ☒ I certify that I am an officer of the organization listed below; **OR**
    b. ☐ *Not Applicable.* Trip sponsor is an individual or a U.S. institution of higher education.

20. **I certify by my signature that**
    a. **I read and understand the Committee's Travel Regulations;**
    b. **I am not a registered federal lobbyist or registered foreign agent; and**
    c. **The information on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.**

Signature: Ryan Casman Date: July 14, 2026

Name: Ryan Casman Title: Lead Specialist, Government Affairs

Organization: Amtrak

Address: 1 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC, 20001

Email: Ryan.Casman@amtrak.com Telephone: 202-368-7698

If there are questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

August 2026 Amtrak NextGen Acela Train Ride and Briefing

Agenda:

1:00 pm to 1:15 pm: Arrive at Washington Union Station; meet Portia and Ryan inside the station in front of Blue Bottle Coffee (located on main level).

1:15 pm to 1:45 pm: Portia and Ryan will escort group to meet Chris Jagodzinski at Gate G. Walk to the platform for early boarding and walkthrough of Train 2116 to view Business Class, Café, and First Class cars.

1:55 pm: Train 2116 departs Washington Union Station. Amtrak will provide a briefing on the NextGen Acela program and fleet during the trip.

2:00 pm to 2:26 pm: Vice President for Commissioning and Corridor Optimization Chris Jagodzinski, and Vice President for Project Delivery, Fleet & Facilities Michelle Tortolani, will provide a briefing on the key features of the new trainsets and their importance to the Northeast Corridor and the Amtrak system along with updates on the progression of our transition to NextGen Acela trainsets since the initial introduction of the first new trainsets last year.

2:26 pm: Train 2116 arrives at Baltimore Penn Station. Group exits the train.

2:26 pm to 2:30 pm: Group disembarks and navigates to a space in the station to allow for additional discussion.

2:30-2:45: Formal Q&A session and continued discussion of NextGen Acela updates. As time permits, Michelle Tortolani will also provide a brief overview of additional ongoing Amtrak fleet procurements for the Northeast Corridor and the National Network, including a discussion of the timeline for each procurement, the features of the new trainsets, and the testing each fleet will undergo before entering revenue service.

2:45 pm to 3:00 pm: Group waits at Baltimore Penn Station for Northeast Regional Train 131.

3:00 pm: Group boards Northeast Regional Train 131 to return to Washington Union Station.

3:00 pm to 3:48 pm: Group rides Northeast Regional Train 131 back to Washington Union Station.

3:48 pm: Group exits Train 131 at Washington Union Station.

List of Confirmed Attendees

Moctar Aveya	Rep. Hank Johnson	D-GA-04
John Ryder Duncan	Rep. Juan Ciscomani	R-AZ-06
Eric Forteza	T&I Rail Subcommittee Democrats	N/A
Eric Gebhart	Rep. Rob Bresnahan	R-PA-08
Jackie Kilroy	THUD Democrats	N/A
Renaldine Lafleche	Rep. Hank Johnson	D-GA-04
Avinash Maniam	Rep. Seth Moulton	D-MA-06
Andrea Martin	Rep. Andre Carson	D-IN-07
Brandon Naylor	Rep. Sharice Davids	D-KS-03
Sarah Penkava	Rep. Hank Johnson	D-GA-04
Blake Phillips	Rep. Tracey Mann	R-KS-01
Avery Pierson	THUD Republicans	N/A
Savannah Rogers	Rep. Chris Pappas	D-NH-01
Alex Weeden	Rep. Maxwell Frost	D-FL-10

House Staff Invitees and Rationale

(Response to Question 4)

Amtrak August 2026 NextGen Acela Train Ride and Briefing

Addendum July 17, 2026

1. Mark Ratto, Staff Director, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Majority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Mark assists members and staff on the committee in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.
2. Mindy Shaw, Professional Staff Member, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Majority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Mindy assists members and staff on the committee in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.
3. Gavin Fauntleroy, Research Assistant, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Majority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Gavin assists members and staff in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.
4. Frances Bourne, Staff Director, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Minority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Frances assists members and staff on the committee in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.
5. Sam Morgante, Professional Staff Member, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Minority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Sam assists members and staff on the committee in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.
6. Eric Forteza-Romero, Research Assistant, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Minority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Gavin assists members and staff in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.

7. Avery Pierson, Professional Staff Member, House Appropriations THUD Subcommittee Majority:
    - As a professional staff member for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Avery is responsible for drafting and advising on legislation which provides funding to Amtrak. Conducting oversight of Amtrak's operations is key for the members of the Committee.
8. Jackie Kilroy, Professional Staff member, House Appropriations THUD Subcommittee Minority:
    - As a professional staff member for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Jackie is responsible for drafting and advising on legislation which provides funding to Amtrak. Conducting oversight of Amtrak's operations is key for the members of the Committee.
9. Will Ahlquist, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Dave Taylor:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
10. Avinash Maniam, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Seth Moulton:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
11. Hannah Balash, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Eric Burlison:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
12. Owen Beal, Legislative Director for Rep. Emilia Sykes:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
13. Derron Bennet, Senior Advisor for Rep. Frederica Wilson:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
14. Jack Best, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. David Rouzer:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

15. Lacey Bowersox, Legislative Director for Rep. Mike Bost:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
16. Will Cantrell, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Nick Begich:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
17. Nick Casillas, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Burgess Owens:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
18. Redi Degefa, Policy Advisor for Rep. Mark DeSaulnier:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
19. Nicky Hazelbaker, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Pete Stauber:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
20. Blake Phillips, Operations Director for Rep. Tracey Mann:
    - As staff for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
21. Noelle Gasper, Legislative Director for Rep. Rick Larsen:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
22. Cole Gibson: Legislative Director for Rep. Troy Nehls:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
23. Karina Hull, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Laura Friedman:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

24. Renaldine Lefleche, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Hank Johnson:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
25. Callie Lucia, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Pat Ryan:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
26. Andrea Martin, Legislative Counsel for Rep. Andre Carson:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
27. Connor Meyers, Legislative Director for Rep. Mike Kennedy:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
28. Rick Podliska, Legislative Director for Rep. Daniel Webster:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
29. Sydney Powers, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Dusty Johnson:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
30. Alex Rajakovich, Legislative Director for Rep. Chris Deluzio:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
31. Melvin Sanchez, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Chuy Garcia:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
32. Claire Shanklin, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Dina Titus:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

33. Trevor Smith, Legislative Director for Rep. Vince Fong:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
34. Harden Spencer, Legislative Director for Rep. Valerie Foushee:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
35. Matthew Steinbaum, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Jerry Nadler:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
36. John Stout, Legislative Director for Rep. Tim Burchett:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
37. Alex Weeden, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Maxwell Frost:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
38. Megan Wenrich, Legislative Director for Rep. Jefferson Shreve
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
39. Isabel David, Legislative Director for Rep. Bruce Westerman
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
40. Jason Murphy, Legislative Director for Rep. Clay Fuller
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
41. Melissa Andrade, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Jared Huffman
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

42. Joe Bachar, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Tony Wied
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
43. Austin Becera, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Brian Babin
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
44. Lila Bernardin, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Marilyn Strickland
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
45. Hans Bjontegard, Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Mike Collins
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
46. Peter Butkovich, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
47. Grace Chapman, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Mike Ezell
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
48. Chris Concepcion, Communications Director for Del. Kim King-Hinds
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
49. Elisabeth Conklin, Legislative Director for Rep. Tom Barrett
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

50. Jeff Coulter, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Bob Onder
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
51. Ross Dietrich, Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Brian Mast
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
52. Leila Fleming, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Hillary Scholten
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
53. Noah Garber, Policy Advisor for Rep. Jeff Van Drew
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
54. Sullivan Gassman, Senior Legislative Assistant for Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
55. Eric Gebhart, Legislative Director for Rep. Rob Bresnahan
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
56. Nate Higgins, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Brad Knott
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
57. Sean Higgins, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for Rep. Val Hoyle
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
58. Jackie Hunley, Legislative Director for Rep. Addison McDowell
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

59. Christian Kerr, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Robert Garcia
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
60. Sophie Martino, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Shomari Figures
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
61. Johanna Montiel, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for Rep. Salud Carbajal
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
62. Brandon Naylor, Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Sharice Davids
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
63. Jon Older, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Laura Gillen
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
64. John Pecaro, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Rick Crawford
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
65. Elisabeth Raczek, Legislative Assistant for Rep. John Garamendi
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
66. Savannah Rogers, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Chris Pappas
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
67. Mia Rubio, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Greg Stanton
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

68. Patrick Schilling, Legislative Director for Rep. Scott Perry
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
69. Raphael Schreiber, Legislative Director for Rep. Thomas Massie
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
70. Sharon Wagener, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for Rep. Julia Brownley
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
71. Tim Achinger, Legislative Director/General Counsel for Rep. Jimmy Patronis
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
72. James Zandstra, Legislative Director for Rep. Kevin Kiley
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
73. Christopher Zhen, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Jeff Hurd
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
74. Channon Rankin, Legislative Director for Rep. Sam Graves
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
75. Shea Calhoun, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Nellie Pou
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
76. Jen Bradley, Chief of Staff for Rep. John Rutherford
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.

77. Royce Chen, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Norma Torres
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
78. Ryder Duncan, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Juan Ciscomani
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
79. Harrison Kisber, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Dave Joyce
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
80. Brad Korten, Senior Advisor for Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
81. Joe Newman, Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Adriano Espaillat
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
82. Heather Painter, Legislative Director for Rep. Pete Aguilar
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
83. Rob Sar, Legislative Director for Rep. Stephanie Bice
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.

84. Barvetta Singletary, Senior Advisor for Rep. Jim Clyburn
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
85. Beau Stuckey, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Steve Womack
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
86. Will Tener, Legislative Director for Rep. Hal Rogers
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
87. Ben Van Sickle, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for Rep. Ryan Zinke
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
88. Sophia Warner, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Dale Strong
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
89. Sammi Wells, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Mike Quigley
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
90. Naomi Fecher-Davis, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Brendan Boyle
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.

91. Curran Gilster, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Don Bacon
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
92. Karson Healy, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Jen Kiggans
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
93. Kemper Jolly, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Chris Smith
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
94. Oliver McIntosh, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Tom Kean
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
95. Cameron Rickenbach, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
96. Owen Rosenberg, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Andrew Garbarino
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
97. Alex Schroder, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Nicole Malliotakis
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.

98. Zachary Newman, Legislative Director (Acting) for Rep. Josh Gottheimer
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
99. Ethan Pido, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Frank Pallone
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
100. Evan Patterson, Legislative Assistant, Rep. Frank Lucas
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
101. Sarah Penkava, Scheduler/Digital Media Manager, Rep. Hank Johnson
    - As staff for a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
102. Moctar Ayeva, Legislative Correspondent/Staff Assistant, Rep. Hank Johnson
    - As staff for a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

Good afternoon,

I hope you're having a pleasant start to your week! On behalf of Amtrak, I would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in an informational ride and briefing on Amtrak's new *NextGen Acela* on **Tuesday, August 18th, 2026**. Amtrak will provide travel from Washington Union Station to Baltimore Penn Station aboard a *NextGen Acela* and offer a first-hand look at the next generation of Amtrak's high-speed rail service. Amtrak will also provide a return trip to Washington Union Station.

Along the way, you will hear directly from Vice President for Commissioning and Corridor Optimization Chris Jagodzinski, and Vice President for Project Delivery, Fleet & Facilities Michelle Tortolani, who leads the *NextGen Acela* team at Amtrak. Chris and Michelle will provide a briefing on the key features of the new trainsets and their importance to the Northeast Corridor and the Amtrak system along with updates on the progression of our transition to NextGen Acela trainsets since the initial introduction of the first new trainsets last year.

We would love to have you join us! To attend, please take BOTH of the following actions by no later than **Monday, July 20th**. Please note that one step involves the submission of a brief form, which will need to be signed by your office prior to submission:

1. Respond to this email to RSVP to the event and let us know that you plan to attend (attendance is limited to one person per office), and
2. Complete and submit the attached Traveler Form along with the Primary Trip Sponsor Form Packet (also attached) to the House Committee on Ethics by or before **Monday, July 20th**. Forms can be hand delivered to 1015 Longworth or submitted via email at travel.requests@mail.house.gov. Amtrak is covering the costs associated with this trip in accordance with House Committee on Ethics Travel Regulations. As such, you must submit all relevant materials (Traveler Form + supporting attachments) to the House Committee on Ethics no less than 30 business days in advance of your departure. Please note that your employing Member must sign the Traveler Form.

Depending on the number of attendees, we will likely have ample space, but the seating capacity for the car we have reserved is limited. We have limited available seats for Member office staff, and **they will be available on a first-come, first-served basis**. So, if you'd like to join us, please let us know as soon as you can to ensure that we confirm your RSVP and can prioritize accordingly if we begin to approach max capacity.

When: August 18th, 2026, at 1:00 pm to approximately 4:00 pm

Where: Washington Union Station, Baltimore Penn Station

Ethics Deadline: Monday, July 20th, 2026

RSVP By: As soon as possible, but no later than Monday, July 20th, 2026

We look forward to welcoming you aboard! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Portia Boone (Portia.Boone@amtrak.com) if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

Ryan Casman

Lead Government Affairs Specialist, House of Representatives

1 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, D.C., 20001

Mobile: (202) 368-7698 | Email: Ryan.Casman@amtrak.com

Primary Trip Sponsor Interest and Organizing Role

Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, is a Congressionally chartered company that provides intercity passenger rail service to passengers across the United States.

Amtrak receives annual appropriations from Congress and also receives policy directives through authorizing legislation. Both authorizers on the T&I Rail Subcommittee and Appropriators can benefit from opportunities to learn more about Amtrak's operations, which fall under the jurisdiction of their committees, as this information helps to inform their work. Amtrak's new *NextGen Acela* fleet launched in August 2025 and represents an important step towards replacing aging equipment and strengthening the company's ability to provide high-quality service along the Northeast Corridor. Creating an opportunity for professional and personal office committee staff to see the *NextGen Acela* in person helps to facilitate knowledge gathering and potential oversight by policymakers who directly impact Amtrak's business.

As the operator of the *NextGen Acela*, Amtrak's role in organizing encompasses providing space on a train for staff to ride along the Northeast Corridor to experience the train for themselves and facilitating a briefing during the train ride. Once the train reaches Baltimore Penn Station, Amtrak will also provide transportation back to Washington, D.C., on a separate train. Amtrak will be the sole entity paying for the transportation to and from Baltimore Penn Station. Additionally, Amtrak employees will be the only individuals (beyond the Congressional staff invited to the trip) participating in this event and interacting with congressional staff.

House Staff Invitees and Rationale

(Response to Question 4)

Amtrak August 2026 NextGen Acela Train Ride and Briefing

1. Mark Ratto, Staff Director, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Majority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Mark assists members and staff on the committee in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.
2. Mindy Shaw, Professional Staff Member, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Majority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Mindy assists members and staff on the committee in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.
3. Gavin Fauntleroy, Research Assistant, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Majority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Gavin assists members and staff in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.
4. Frances Bourne, Staff Director, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Minority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Frances assists members and staff on the committee in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.
5. Sam Morgante, Professional Staff Member, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Minority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Sam assists members and staff on the committee in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.
6. Eric Forteza-Romero, Research Assistant, House T&I Rail Subcommittee Minority:
    - As a professional staff member on the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, Gavin assists members and staff in conducting oversight of Amtrak and developing policy/Congressional directives for the company.

7. Avery Pierson, Professional Staff Member, House Appropriations THUD Subcommittee Majority:
    - As a professional staff member for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Avery is responsible for drafting and advising on legislation which provides funding to Amtrak. Conducting oversight of Amtrak's operations is key for the members of the Committee.
8. Jackie Kilroy, Professional Staff member, House Appropriations THUD Subcommittee Minority:
    - As a professional staff member for the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee, Jackie is responsible for drafting and advising on legislation which provides funding to Amtrak. Conducting oversight of Amtrak's operations is key for the members of the Committee.
9. Will Ahlquist, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Dave Taylor:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
10. Avinash Maniam, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Seth Moulton:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
11. Hannah Balash, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Eric Burlison:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
12. Owen Beal, Legislative Director for Rep. Emilia Sykes:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
13. Derron Bennet, Senior Advisor for Rep. Frederica Wilson:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
14. Jack Best, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. David Rouzer:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

15. Lacey Bowersox, Legislative Director for Rep. Mike Bost:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
16. Will Cantrell, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Nick Begich:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
17. Nick Casillas, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Burgess Owens:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
18. Redi Degefa, Policy Advisor for Rep. Mark DeSaulnier:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
19. Nicky Hazelbaker, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Pete Stauber:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
20. Sarah Ferrell, Legislative Director for Rep. Tracey Mann:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
21. Noelle Gasper, Legislative Director for Rep. Rick Larsen:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
22. Cole Gibson: Legislative Director for Rep. Troy Nehls:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
23. Karina Hull, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Laura Friedman:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

24. Renaldine Lefleche, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Hank Johnson:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
25. Callie Lucia, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Pat Ryan:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
26. Andrea Martin, Legislative Counsel for Rep. Andre Carson:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
27. Connor Meyers, Legislative Director for Rep. Mike Kennedy:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
28. Rick Podliska, Legislative Director for Rep. Daniel Webster:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
29. Sydney Powers, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Dusty Johnson:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
30. Alex Rajakovich, Legislative Director for Rep. Chris Deluzio:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
31. Melvin Sanchez, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Chuy Garcia:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
32. Claire Shanklin, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Dina Titus:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

33. Trevor Smith, Legislative Director for Rep. Vince Fong:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
34. Harden Spencer, Legislative Director for Rep. Valerie Foushee:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
35. Matthew Steinbaum, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Jerry Nadler:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
36. John Stout, Legislative Director for Rep. Tim Burchett:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
37. Alex Weeden, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Maxwell Frost:
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
38. Megan Wenrich, Legislative Director for Rep. Jefferson Shreve
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
39. Isabel David, Legislative Director for Rep. Bruce Westerman
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
40. Jason Murphy, Legislative Director for Rep. Clay Fuller
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
41. Melissa Andrade, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Jared Huffman
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

42. Joe Bachar, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Tony Wied
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
43. Austin Becera, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Brian Babin
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
44. Lila Bernardin, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Marilyn Strickland
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
45. Hans Bjontegard, Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Mike Collins
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
46. Peter Butkovich, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
47. Grace Chapman, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Mike Ezell
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
48. Chris Concepcion, Communications Director for Del. Kim King-Hinds
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
49. Elisabeth Conklin, Legislative Director for Rep. Tom Barrett
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

50. Jeff Coulter, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Bob Onder
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
51. Ross Dietrich, Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Brian Mast
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
52. Leila Fleming, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Hillary Scholten
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
53. Noah Garber, Policy Advisor for Rep. Jeff Van Drew
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
54. Sullivan Gassman, Senior Legislative Assistant for Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
55. Eric Gebhart, Legislative Director for Rep. Rob Bresnahan
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
56. Nate Higgins, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Brad Knott
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
57. Sean Higgins, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for Rep. Val Hoyle
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
58. Jackie Hunley, Legislative Director for Rep. Addison McDowell
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

59. Christian Kerr, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Robert Garcia
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
60. Sophie Martino, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Shomari Figures
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
61. Johanna Montiel, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for Rep. Salud Carbajal
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
62. Brandon Naylor, Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Sharice Davids
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
63. Jon Older, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Laura Gillen
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
64. John Pecaro, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Rick Crawford
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
65. Elisabeth Raczek, Legislative Assistant for Rep. John Garamendi
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
66. Savannah Rogers, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Chris Pappas
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
67. Mia Rubio, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Greg Stanton
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.

68. Patrick Schilling, Legislative Director for Rep. Scott Perry
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
69. Raphael Schreiber, Legislative Director for Rep. Thomas Massie
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
70. Sharon Wagener, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for Rep. Julia Brownley
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
71. Tim Achinger, Legislative Director/General Counsel for Rep. Jimmy Patronis
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
72. James Zandstra, Legislative Director for Rep. Kevin Kiley
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
73. Christopher Zhen, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Jeff Hurd
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
74. Channon Rankin, Legislative Director for Rep. Sam Graves
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Rail Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
75. Shea Calhoun, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Nellie Pou
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak.
76. Jen Bradley, Chief of Staff for Rep. John Rutherford
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.

77. Royce Chen, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Norma Torres
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
78. Ryder Duncan, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Juan Ciscomani
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
79. Harrison Kisber, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Dave Joyce
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
80. Brad Korten, Senior Advisor for Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
81. Joe Newman, Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Adriano Espaillat
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
82. Heather Painter, Legislative Director for Rep. Pete Aguilar
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
83. Rob Sar, Legislative Director for Rep. Stephanie Bice
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.

84. Barvetta Singletary, Senior Advisor for Rep. Jim Clyburn
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
85. Beau Stuckey, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Steve Womack
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
86. Will Tener, Legislative Director for Rep. Hal Rogers
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
87. Ben Van Sickle, Deputy Chief of Staff/Legislative Director for Rep. Ryan Zinke
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
88. Sophia Warner, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Dale Strong
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
89. Sammi Wells, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Mike Quigley
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member of the THUD Appropriations Subcommittee, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, which is a recipient of federal funding.
90. Naomi Fecher-Davis, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Brendan Boyle
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.

91. Curran Gilster, Senior Legislative Assistant for Rep. Don Bacon
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
92. Karson Healy, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Jen Kiggans
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
93. Kemper Jolly, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Chris Smith
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
94. Oliver McIntosh, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Tom Kean
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
95. Cameron Rickenbach, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
96. Owen Rosenberg, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Andrew Garbarino
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
97. Alex Schroder, Senior Policy Advisor for Rep. Nicole Malliotakis
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.

98. Zachary Newman, Legislative Director (Acting) for Rep. Josh Gottheimer
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.
99. Ethan Pido, Legislative Assistant for Rep. Frank Pallone
    - As legislative staff covering transportation for a member with demonstrated interest in rail policy and Amtrak, observing the NextGen Acela will allow them to better inform their boss on matters related to Amtrak, a recipient of federal funding.

Primary Trip Sponsor Interest and Organizing Role

(Response to Question 12)

Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, is a Congressionally chartered company that provides intercity passenger rail service to passengers across the United States.

Amtrak receives annual appropriations from Congress and also receives policy directives through authorizing legislation. Both authorizers on the T&I Rail Subcommittee and Appropriators can benefit from opportunities to learn more about Amtrak's operations, which fall under the jurisdiction of their committees, as this information helps to inform their work. Amtrak's new *NextGen Acela* fleet launched in August 2025 and represents an important step towards replacing aging equipment and strengthening the company's ability to provide high-quality service along the Northeast Corridor. Creating an opportunity for professional and personal office committee staff to see the *NextGen Acela* in person helps to facilitate knowledge gathering and potential oversight by policymakers who directly impact Amtrak's business.

As the operator of the *NextGen Acela*, Amtrak's role in organizing encompasses providing space on a train for staff to ride along the Northeast Corridor to experience the train for themselves and facilitating a briefing during the train ride. Once the train reaches Baltimore Penn Station, Amtrak will also provide transportation back to Washington, D.C., on a separate train. Amtrak will be the sole entity planning this trip and paying for the transportation to and from Baltimore Penn Station. Additionally, Amtrak employees will be the only individuals (beyond the congressional staff invited to the trip) participating in this event and interacting with congressional staff.

August 2026 Amtrak NextGen Acela Train Ride and Briefing

Agenda:

1:00 pm: Arrive at Washington Union Station; meet Portia and Ryan inside the station in front of Blue Bottle Coffee (located on main level).

1:25 pm: Walk over to NextGen Acela Train 2116 for early boarding and walkthrough.

1:55 pm: Train 2116 departs Washington Union Station. Amtrak will provide a briefing on the NextGen Acela program and fleet during the trip.

2:00 pm: Vice President for Commissioning and Corridor Optimization Chris Jagodzinski, and Vice President for Project Delivery, Fleet & Facilities Michelle Tortolani, will provide a briefing on the key features of the new trainsets and their importance to the Northeast Corridor and the Amtrak system along with updates on the progression of our transition to NextGen Acela trainsets since the initial introduction of the first new trainsets last year.

2:26 pm: Train 2116 arrives at Baltimore Penn Station. Group exits the train.

3:00 pm: Group boards Northeast Regional Train 131 to return to Washington Union Station.

3:48 pm: Group exits Train 131 at Washington Union Station.

Good afternoon,

I hope you're having a pleasant start to your week! On behalf of Amtrak, I would like to extend an invitation for you to participate in an informational ride and briefing on Amtrak's new *NextGen Acela* on **Tuesday, August 18th, 2026**. Amtrak will provide travel from Washington Union Station to Baltimore Penn Station aboard a *NextGen Acela* and offer a first-hand look at the next generation of Amtrak's high-speed rail service. Amtrak will also provide a return trip to Washington Union Station.

Along the way, you will hear directly from Vice President for Commissioning and Corridor Optimization Chris Jagodzinski, and Vice President for Project Delivery, Fleet & Facilities Michelle Tortolani, who leads the *NextGen Acela* team at Amtrak. Chris and Michelle will provide a briefing on the key features of the new trainsets and their importance to the Northeast Corridor and the Amtrak system along with updates on the progression of our transition to NextGen Acela trainsets since the initial introduction of the first new trainsets last year.

We would love to have you join us! To attend, please take BOTH of the following actions by no later than **Monday, July 20th**. Please note that one step involves the submission of a brief form, which will need to be signed by your office prior to submission:

1. Respond to this email to RSVP to the event and let us know that you plan to attend (attendance is limited to one person per office), and
2. Complete and submit the attached Traveler Form along with the Primary Trip Sponsor Form Packet (also attached) to the House Committee on Ethics by or before **Monday, July 20th**. Forms can be hand delivered to 1015 Longworth or submitted via email at travel.requests@mail.house.gov. Amtrak is covering the costs associated with this trip in accordance with House Committee on Ethics Travel Regulations. As such, you must submit all relevant materials (Traveler Form + supporting attachments) to the House Committee on Ethics no less than 30 business days in advance of your departure. Please note that your employing Member must sign the Traveler Form.

Depending on the number of attendees, we will likely have ample space, but the seating capacity for the car we have reserved is limited. We have limited available seats for Member office staff, and **they will be available on a first-come, first-served basis**. So, if you'd like to join us, please let us know as soon as you can to ensure that we confirm your RSVP and can prioritize accordingly if we begin to approach max capacity.

When: August 18th, 2026, at 1:00 pm to approximately 4:00 pm

Where: Washington Union Station, Baltimore Penn Station

Ethics Deadline: Monday, July 20th, 2026

RSVP By: As soon as possible, but no later than Monday, July 20th, 2026

We look forward to welcoming you aboard! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or Portia Boone (Portia.Boone@amtrak.com) if you have any questions.