

AMTRAK ANSWERS BIKE QUESTIONS

Back in March we asked our members and supporters if they had any questions about bike service on Amtrak. And Wow, did you have questions. We got hundreds and hundreds of questions! We worked with Amtrak staff to try and cut out duplicates, but left in most of the questions regarding specific routes.

These answers are broken into a couple different topics including:

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(The topic break down is subjective so if you don't see your question you may want to skim the other areas as well)

If we still haven't answered your questions, don't worry! The League of American Bicyclists will be hosting a webinar with Amtrak staff later this summer where we can answer your questions live.

Thank you again for your interest and your questions!

Caron Whitaker
Director, Bike Walk Action
Caron@clwconsulting.net
caron@bikeleague.org

QUESTIONS ON BIKE TYPES/ SIZES ALLOWED ON AMTRAK	
<p>What size bikes are allowed on Amtrak</p>	<p>Amtrak accepts only standard size bicycles with the following dimensions/parameters: Standard bikes: Weight max - 50lbs; 70" x 41" x 8.5"; Max tire width 2"; Folding bikes: 34" x 15" x 48" (860 x 380 x 1120 mm)</p> <p>This is mainly for three reasons: 1) we know we can safely and reliably accept and handle bicycles at this weight/size wherever bicycle space is available for sale per space constraints on our equipment as well as what our bike racks can accommodate.</p> <p>2) Our reservation system only allows us to sell one type of bicycle inventory (we are currently revamping our system, which will allow us to accommodate multiple types of bicycle inventory in the near future).</p> <p>3) Every item used on or attached to the train must follow strict federal safety standards. The bike racks and tires hooks approved for use on our trains can only accommodate a maximum tire width of 2" and bikes with standard wheelbases.</p>
<p>Are you able to accommodate tandem bicycles on your trains?</p>	<p>Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks. We are working on making updates that will allow us to accommodate non-standard bicycles like tandems, trikes and recumbents.</p>
<p>I have cargo bike that is under the 50 lb. weight limit, but is about a foot longer than a regular sized bike. Can I take it aboard? My wife, daughter and I would like to travel from SLC Utah to Pittsburgh and return to SLC from DC. Is there a way to ensure that if we get the cargo bike on the first leg that we'll be able to get it on when transferring in Chicago, etc.?</p>	<p>Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks. We are working on making updates that will allow us to accommodate non-standard bicycles like tandems, trikes and recumbents.</p>
<p>Can you accommodate a recumbent trike?</p>	<p>Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks. We are working on making updates that will allow us to accommodate non-standard bicycles like tandems, trikes and recumbents.</p>

<p>Will Amtrak accept recumbents and trikes on the train? If not, why? As baby boomers age, many are switching to these for touring. Also, folks who suffer from medical issues rely on trikes for their primary form of transportation. Allowing these on trains will expand their world.</p>	<p>Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks. We are working on making updates that will allow us to accommodate non-standard bicycles like tandems, trikes and recumbents.</p>
<p>For a number of years in the past I was able to travel on Amtrak trains with my tandem bicycle. Amtrak ceased accepting tandem bicycles several years ago. Why?</p>	<p>Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks. We are working on making updates that will allow us to accommodate non-standard bicycles like tandems, trikes and recumbents.</p>
<p>As a recumbent bike rider exclusively, I am wondering if you would consider changing your policy about them, and allow them to be transported in the baggage car hanging on the bike rack. My short-wheel based recumbent would fit perfectly in the rack as it has the same wheelbase as a standard bike. I have been an Amtrak customer for almost 40 years, and hope to continue. Please consider changing your policy.</p>	<p>Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks. We are working on making updates that will allow us to accommodate non-standard bicycles like tandems, trikes and recumbents. The way our bike racks are bolted into the train walls require bikes to be stored vertically. While a similar wheelbase could technically fit in some cases, the way bikes are hung next to each other may not fit wider bicycles next to a standard bicycle. In addition, we can only sell and manage one type of bicycle inventory at this time. We have plans underway to adjust bicycle rack spacing as well as to enhance our reservation system to accommodate multiple types of bicycle inventory.</p>
<p>Many cyclists like myself enjoy bike packing on a mountain bike or fat bike. What is the maximum tire size supported for bikes with walk on bike service?</p>	<p>Currently we can only accommodate bikes with a maximum tire width of 2 inches. We are working on modifications to our bike spaces and reservation system to accommodate fat tire bikes (among other types of bicycles).</p>
<p>Would it be possible to bring fat bikes on board in the future? I recently went skiing in Colorado via Amtrak; a fat bike would have been great to get around Winter Park.</p>	<p>It will be possible to bring fat bikes in the future. Right now our bike hooks, which accommodate tires 2" or less, are standard across the system. We are working on reconfiguring some spaces to accommodate not only fat bikes, but also recumbents, cargo bikes, tandems, etc.</p>
<p>Are electric powered bikes allowed, and if so is there a weight-limit?</p>	<p>Right now we don't allow electric powered bikes until we complete a safety evaluation. We'll update our policies once that study is complete.</p>
<p>What Type of accommodations will be available for individuals with disabilities who may ride tandems, trikes, hand bikes, and carts?</p>	<p>There are projects underway to modify our existing equipment and reservation system to accommodate recumbents, tandems, etc. As soon as that's available we will notify the public via press release and make the bike space available for sale on Amtrak.com.</p>

<p>Can I take a pedal/assist bicycle on the Capitol Limited? The pedal/assist bicycle has a small electric motor integrated into the bottom bracket.</p>	<p>We cannot allow electric bikes at the moment since they pose a safety/fire risk from the motor and/or batteries.</p>
<p>I used the Amtrak's bike specific cars last fall. Toledo to Pittsburg and then DC to Toledo. The hangers for the bikes are staggered in height so they can accommodate more bikes but the problem we ran into was the lower one wasn't high enough and our rear wheels were hitting the floor. Can this be addressed?</p>	<p>We provide bike measurements for our bike accommodations at amtrak.com/bikes. The measurements are based on the shortest racks and the maximum size of bike we could accommodate across all trains/equipment types at this time.</p>
<p>I like to ship our bikes Amtrak, Baggage Express. I had my tandem built specifically so it would fit in to an Amtrak Bike box, but twice station agents have told me they cannot/will not ship a tandem. Most of the others say, "if it fits in to the box and is less than 50 lbs.', it can be shipped!" There seems to be a conflict between the web site, common usage and some part of written policy. Thanks.</p>	<p>Thanks for the tip! We will work on clarifying this policy with customers and agents.</p>
<p>What is the policy related to non-standard bicycles, i.e. recumbents, trikes, etc.</p>	<p>Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks. We are working on making updates that will allow us to accommodate non-standard bicycles like tandems, trikes and recumbents.</p>
<p>I have a folding trike. I think I can make a box to hold it within the 100 linear inch limit but 110 linear inches would be much better. Can I get the same kind of welcome for my folding trike in a 110 inch box on a trip home from Springfield Mass to Seattle WA? Also, is corrugated plastic (coroplast) just as welcome for boxes as corrugated cardboard? I believe it is significantly stronger and much more water-resistant.</p>	<p>Passengers are welcome to pack their own bicycles in a case. Bike containers and/or bikes travel inside baggage cars and are handled by Amtrak crewmembers. You must travel between stations that offer checked baggage service. Visit amtrak.com/bikes or check with your local station.</p>

QUESTIONS ON COST	
What does it cost to bring a bike along on Amtrak?	It depends on the route and where you're traveling; however, the fee will be \$20 or less.
If a client does not check in any baggage- could a bicycle be counted as one checked baggage in lieu of baggage as it's in the same car as it's a double charge for bike customers?	There is a fee (\$20 or less) to check a bicycle regardless of whether the passenger checks luggage or not. Bicycle rack space is limited (only 6 spots in most cases).
What is the cost? Can I travel without the bike boxed up? What about folding bikes? Any special regulations around the huge "Fat Tire" bikes that are popular now?	We no longer require you to box your bike except for between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder. Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks. We are working on making updates that will allow us to accommodate non-standard bicycles like tandems, trikes and recumbents.
What is the cost for shipping a bike 1. In a box 2? As an assembled bike	Visit a staffed station or https://www.amtrak.com/express-shipping
What is the fee schedule for bringing a bike? Are the bikes kept in a secure manner?	Bicycle fees are \$20 or less. Passengers are welcome to lock their bicycles on trains that offer carry-on service. Only Amtrak Crew members handle bicycles when passengers use train side checked bike service.

RESERVATIONS/ FIRST COME FIRST SERVE ISSUES	
Do I need to reserve a place?	Reservations are required on all routes except the Capitol Corridor and San Joaquins trains. Reserve your space on Amtrak.com.
Your website indicates that bike space is on a first come first serve basis. Uncertainty about the probability that there will not be room for my bike on the train prevents me from utilizing this service. At what frequency is Amtrak unable to accommodate bicycles? What does Amtrak do to ensure that adequate space for bicycles is provided?	Bike storage on most trains is reserve only except for on the Capitol Corridor and San Joaquins routes in California. To reserve space, simply click the "add bike to trip" button that appears when you search/book trains on Amtrak.com.
Hi, Suggestion: it would be nice if the mandatory reservation requirement for bringing a commuting bicycle onboard Amtrak for the Pacific Surfliner route was dropped, as is the case now (Feb 2017) for San Joaquins and Capitol Corridor lines. This bicycle reservation burden is such a hassle that I don't ride Amtrak in San Diego County. Please make it easier to ride Amtrak trains. Thanks for hearing this suggestion.	While there is currently no charge for bike storage on the Pacific Surfliner, we do require a reservation to ensure there's space available. The Pacific Surfliner carries more bikes than any other train on the Amtrak system. This is the best way to manage that demand.
Why do people need to make a reservation ahead of time in order to bring their bike onto Amtrak? BART, Coaster, CalTrain and other regional trains can easily accommodate bicyclists with no prior notice, and I think it increases ridership. Why can't Amtrak do the same?	Since space is limited, we require reservations so your bike rack space is guaranteed. Reservations also help us measure demand, analyze data, and also helps the crew know when passengers are boarding/disembarking with bicycles along their route.
If I show up at a train station with my bike and they already have four (the limit) of wheeled-on bikes in storage, will I be asked to wait for the next train?	We encourage and/or require bicycle reservations for this reason. For unreserved service on the San Joaquins or Capitol Corridor trains you may have to wait for the next train if you do not have a reservation.
Does AMTRAK have a back up plan for not having enough room if there are a lot of bikes at a station?	We require you to make a bike reservation for exactly this reason.

QUESTIONS ON SPECIFIC LINES	(DIVIDED BY MID WEST, NORTHEAST, SOUTHEAST, WEST AND WEST COAST)
MID-WEST	
Will bicycle service be offered/available on the Wolverine (Chicago-Detroit) ?	The state of Michigan determines whether baggage service or bikes can be carried on the Wolverine Line. Their unique equipment must undergo some modifications that meet FRA safety regulations before bike service can be offered.
Can I roll a bicycle onto the Cardinal at Maysville, Kentucky ?	Unfortunately, Maysville, Kentucky is an unstaffed station and doesn't offer checked baggage service; therefore, there is no checked bicycle service on the Cardinal to/from that station.
I am thinking about traveling from Detroit to San Francisco with my bike. What is the cost? Does it need to be packed? Can I keep it with me as it is very expensive	Currently, there is no carry on or train side checked bicycle service on the Wolverine trains in Michigan.
Do you allow bikes on the Lakeshore Limited yet? If not, why not?	We offer Train side Checked bicycle service on the Lakeshore Limited to/from staffed stations that offer checked baggage. Visit Amtrak.com to check availability and to reserve your space.
When will your Crescent line have roll-on bicycle services?	The Crescent has train side checked bicycle service right now.
Will you be adding service to in between station stops on the Hiawatha line ? Right now the only way I can take a bike on the Hiawatha is by traveling from downtown Milwaukee to downtown Chicago . What options will there be in the future for riders who want bike service at the other stations on the line? Are there plans to make this more affordable for regular/monthly/10 ride ticket holders? Adding \$10 to each daily round trip would be cost prohibitive for the week.	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>We are working to open up bike service to unstaffed stations where the above conditions are met and overall service isn't negatively affected.</p>
Some of your smaller connecting lines, e.g. The Wolverine ; do not have baggage cars in which to transport Bikes. What good of it is to take your bike on a long distance train only to find out your bike can't be transported on the connecting line. Thanks	The state of Michigan determines whether baggage service or bikes can be carried on the Wolverine Line. Their unique equipment must undergo some modifications that meet FRA safety regulations before bike service can be offered.

<p>Will there ever be bike service for the Wolverine line? I know many residents in Ann Arbor and Detroit who would value the ability to take their bikes to Chicago on the train, but currently drive because there is not the availability for this at the present time.</p>	<p>The state of Michigan determines whether baggage service or bikes can be carried on the Wolverine Line. Their unique equipment must undergo some modifications that meet FRA safety regulations before bike service can be offered.</p>
<p>When will the train from Champaign to Chicago offer Roll and go?? (used that service from DC to Pittsburgh and it was fantastic!)</p>	<p>Projects are underway to modify equipment to expand Carry On Service to more routes (similar to the Capitol Limited route). Announcements will be made via press release and space will be available for sale on Amtrak.com once this service is expanded. Stay tuned.</p>
<p>I recently took my bike on the Empire Builder between La Crosse and Milwaukee. I paid \$20 each direction. I don't mind storing my bike in the baggage car, but if there was roll on service, it would be much more affordable. Is there any chance this will be available on this train in the future?</p>	<p>Projects are underway to modify equipment to expand Carry On Service to the Empire Builder; however the bike fee will still be \$20.</p>
<p>Why only 4 bikes allowed on the Missouri River Runner?</p>	<p>The State of Missouri determines the bicycle inventory on this route.</p>
<p>When I rode from Milwaukee to St. Louis I had to handle my bike in several ways, move it between cars at each stop, and pay a different fee per stop. Will this be standardized and made easier to understand?</p>	<p>The Hiawatha has a baggage car (train side checked service) and the Lincoln Service does not (Carry On Service). We can't standardize bicycle carriage across trains that use different equipment. We will take this feedback into consideration and make it easier to understand what bicycle service you are reserving. Since you were connecting between two trains and transferring in Chicago, we charged a fee and required you to reserve bike space on both trains.</p>
<p>What bike rack service do you have going through my town Fairfield, Iowa?</p>	<p>The closest station with baggage service is Mt. Pleasant, IA, ~20mi away on the California Zephyr Route.</p>
<p>Is there still plans to add ride on bike service to the Wolverine line that runs from Detroit to Chicago? This has been discussed for several years and still has not come to fruition.</p>	<p>The state of Michigan determines whether baggage service or bikes can be carried on the Wolverine Line. Their unique equipment must undergo some modifications that meet FRA safety regulations before bike service can be offered.</p>

NORTHEAST	
Thinking about taking Amtrak from Chicago to Essex, Vermont and back. Looks like roll on should work. Haven't determined when. Train schedule may impact plan. Is this possible? How much would it cost? How far ahead do we need to make reservations?	The most direct way to do this would be to take the Lake Shore Limited between Chicago and New York Penn and then the Vermonter, which leaves the next morning, from NYP to Essex Junction Vermont. The bike fee will be \$80 total, not including the cost of your ticket.
I'm biking across the country, starting in April. Can I get on the Empire Builder in Sandpoint, Idaho with my bicycle if the weather is too cold and/or miserable to cross the Rockies to Cut Bank? It's difficult for me to tell from your webpage.	Unfortunately, Sandpoint, Idaho is an unstaffed station and doesn't offer checked baggage service; therefore, there is no checked bicycle service on the Empire Builder to/from that station.
There is almost always room for a non-folded bike between Harrisburg and Philadelphia . Can you start allowing bikes on this stretch?	The Keystone service shares equipment with most other routes in the Northeast. We are currently working on a bike rack design solution for all cars in the Northeast. For safety purposes, we can't allow unsecured bicycles inside passenger coaches in the Northeast.
Thanks for taking questions. More than once I have tried to plan a biking vacation leaving from eastern MA (Mansfield) and found that bikes were not allowed on the trains I would need. I have also looked at the corridors in VT. I can be flexible about travel times. Is there a way to open more stops north of MA to bikes? I would use Amtrak more if bikes were allowed on more trains and at more destinations.	We need to make significant updates to our equipment in order to accommodate bicycles on NE Regional trains . While not available right now we are working on a solution.
Will there be dedicated bicycle cars on the Empire Builder ? I believe Empire Builder travels through St. Paul, MN; Fargo, ND, Glacier National Park etc. Some great spots to stop briefly to enjoy some very diverse cycling opportunities. Amtrak runs right through downtown Fargo, which is very bicycle friendly, and the addition of easy on and off for those who want to explore by bicycle would be very valuable.	There is currently train side checked bicycle service on the Empire Builder available since September 2016.

<p>Are there plans to expand bike stowage on the Vermont line? My friends and I would like to take a trip to Vermont, but with only spots for 3 bikes and 1 train per day, it is hard to travel as a group.</p>	<p>The Vermont does not operate with a baggage car and there is only space inside the train for one bike rack per passenger coach. Unfortunately 3-4 bikes is the maximum the Vermont can accommodate.</p>
<p>It is hard for me to understand bike allowance on the website. The Northeast regional train from Pvd to N.Kingstown RI - may I take my bike on the train?</p>	<p>There is no bike service to/from Kingstown, RI since it's a station that doesn't offer checked baggage. We are working on/researching a long-term solution to carry bikes on Northeast Regional trains, which will require extensive modifications to our equipment.</p>
<p>Is there service from Norfolk, VA to NYC?</p>	<p>Service to Norfolk is an extension of the Northeast Regional service. The service to Norfolk does not have a baggage car/checked baggage, so no checked bike service. The Northeast Regional service shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment and funding agreements will need to be made between Amtrak and several states.</p>
<p>When will you start roll on bike access on your Adirondack routes?</p>	<p>The Adirondack route does not have a baggage car, so will not have train side checked service. The Adirondack shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment and funding will need to be allocated and agreed upon between several states.</p>
<p>Can I take my uncrated bike on the train from Albany Oregon to Portland? How much extra do I pay?</p>	<p>You can take your bicycle on the Amtrak Cascades route for a \$5 bike fee each way.</p>
<p>Is bike service available on the Lake Shore Limited from Cleveland to Albany?</p>	<p>Currently, track work and elevator work are preventing us from offering bike service at Albany. Once finish we will restore bike service at Albany and open the space for sale on Amtrak.com.</p>
<p>Why is your quite-large Downeaster bicycle car restricted to 5, evenly spaced bikes? When 20 or even 30 could fit with ease?</p>	<p>The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority is responsible for determining bicycle inventory on the Downeaster.</p>

<p>Adding bike service to the Northeast Regional trains 65/67 and 66 certainly checked a box to offer it on the NEC, but the overnight trains are inconvenient for trips between most station pairs. Are there any plans to expand bike service beyond the last train of the day?</p>	<p>NE Regional Trains 65, 66, and 67 are the only trains that travel with a baggage car; hence, why we can offer train side checked service on those trains.</p> <p>Expanding bike service in the Northeast will require a significant investment to add bike racks to the entire fleet, since the entire Northeast shares a large pool of equipment. While we have plans to expand service to more trains, it will take some time to procure funding and overhaul the equipment.</p>
<p>Why is bike service limited on the Northeast? Shouldn't you be promoting this service rather than curtailing it?</p>	<p>Northeast Regional trains use Amfleet equipment which went into service in the 1970s without bicycle carriage in mind. Most Northeast Regional trains do not have baggage service so cannot offer train side checked service. The Northeast Regional service shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment as well as secure funding agreements between Amtrak and several states.</p>
<p>What about long haul routes like Empire Builder? doing a x-country bike ride like the Northern Tier of ACA many people have to do it in sections due to vacation constraints any chance roll on roll off coming to these routes?</p>	<p>The Empire Builder offers train side checked bike service to/from stations that offer checked baggage service as well as at Glacier Park and Winona, Minnesota.</p>
<p>Will Amtrak begin allowing bicycles on the Downeaster service this summer?</p>	<p>The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority is responsible for determining bicycle availability on the Downeaster.</p>
<p>When will this growing intermodal type of transportation (travel with bikes) be allowed in NorthEast and other areas of Amtrak?</p>	<p>We are working on/researching a long-term solution to carry bikes on Northeast Regional trains, which will require extensive modifications to our equipment.</p>
<p>Do you ever plan to allow bikes on the Downeaster line? When? If no, why not?</p>	<p>The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority determines bicycle available and inventory on the Downeaster line.</p>
<p>When will there be full bike service in New York State? I live in Syracuse and would like to be able to use Amtrak to travel with my bike without packing it in a box.</p>	<p>Trains in the Northeastern United States all share equipment from one large pool. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment. This will also require funding agreements between Amtrak, the State of NY and other states in the Northeast.</p>

<p>When will Amtrak allow wheeling on and storing bikes not in boxes to all stations on the NE corridor? Right now you cannot Board a train from D.C. to NYC with a bike.</p>	<p>You CAN board some trains from DC to NY with a bike. Check out Amtrak.com to reserve your space on the Vermonter, Palmetto, or NE Regional Trains 65,66,67 only. When bike space is available an "Add Bike To Trip" button is displayed. The NE Regional trains share equipment with all routes in the Northeastern United States (besides Acela). Adding bike service will require extensive modifications to our equipment and financial agreements between Amtrak and several states.</p>
<p>I live in NYC and as far as I can tell it's impossible to leave on an Amtrak train with a bicycle - regardless of whether it's in a box or not. Are there any plans to allow roll on service out of Penn Station? My hope is to be able to travel to Pittsburgh with a bicycle or down to Washington DC with my bicycle. Thank you.</p>	<p>The Vermonter offers carry on bike service from Penn Station to DC. From there you can take the Capitol Limited to Pittsburgh.</p> <p>Northeast Regional trains use Amfleet equipment which went into service in the 1970s without bicycle carriage in mind. Most Northeast Regional trains do not have baggage service so cannot offer train side checked service. The Northeast Regional service shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment as well as secure funding agreements between Amtrak and several states.</p>
<p>Why doesn't Amtrak allow bikes on all stops? In Maine, only Portland and Wells are allowed.</p>	<p>The Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority determines bicycle available and inventory on the Downeaster line.</p>
<p>When will Amtrak start providing roll aboard services between Pittsburg and Philadelphia?</p>	<p>The state of Pennsylvania determines whether baggage service or bikes can be carried on these routes. These trains also share equipment with the entire Northeastern United states. Extensive modifications to our equipment would be required and funding agreed upon between Amtrak and several states.</p>
<p>I live near the Trenton station. There is no baggage service, yet trains with bike service stop in there. Please find a way to allow roll on, roll off service there. This has the potential to be a great market for you up and down the East Coast!</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>If the above conditions are met safely and efficiently, we generally will open up the space. We have an extensive queue of unstaffed stations to evaluate at the moment. Once available we will open up for sale on Amtrak.com.</p>

<p>I often take the Harrisburg - Philadelphia Keystone service. I'm inclined to think I don't have permission to take my bike, but there are never any signs clearly saying No, or giving permission, Yes. I'd love to be able to take my bike along. Is this a possibility? It is not a folding bike . . .</p>	<p>The state of Pennsylvania determines whether baggage service or bikes can be carried on these routes. These trains also share equipment with the entire Northeastern United states. Extensive modifications to our equipment would be required and funding agreed upon between Amtrak and several states. They can contact their state DOT. We are also aware that there is demand on this line. The issue is that all of the equipment in the Northeastern US needs to be modified to accommodate bicycles. It's a very complicated situation which I've addressed in other answers related to bikes on Northeast Regional trains.</p>
<p>Hello. Can you please begin carrying bikes on your Keystone service trains ☺ Thanks for considering.</p>	<p>The state of Pennsylvania determines whether baggage service or bikes can be carried on these routes. These trains also share equipment with the entire Northeastern United states. Extensive modifications to our equipment would be required and funding agreed upon between Amtrak and several states.</p>
<p>From Pittsburgh to DC, which stops offer on, off bicycle service and is there a fee?</p>	<p>Carry on bike service is available on the Capitol Limited to all station stops along the route. Visit Amtrak.com to check availability and to reserve your space.</p>
<p>Services from Pittsburg to Cumberland and also Pittsburg to Washington DC and finally Washington DC to Pittsburg. Thanks! in advance.</p>	<p>We offer carry on bike service on the Capitol Limited right now to/from all of these stations. Visit Amtrak.com to book.</p>
<p>Why are bicycles prohibited from the Northeast Corridor trains except for certain trains and then only if boxed? Why is it not possible to assign space somewhere on a train, determine demand, and then expand this area if needed?</p>	<p>We do not require you to box your bike on any trains in the Northeast. Northeast Regional trains use Amfleet equipment which went into service in the 1970s without bicycle carriage in mind. Most Northeast Regional trains do not have baggage service so cannot offer train side checked service. The Northeast Regional service shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment as well as secure funding agreements between Amtrak and several states.</p>
<p>Does Amtrak ever plan to have bicycle accommodations on the Pennsylvanian or Keystone Lines? It would be very helpful for bike tourists from NYC and Philadelphia to gain access to Pittsburgh and the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP).</p>	<p>Plans are underway; however, the project will require extensive modifications to our entire Northeast fleet. Northeast Regional and Keystone trains use Amfleet equipment, which went into service in the 1970s without bicycle carriage in mind. Most Northeast Regional trains do not have baggage service so cannot offer train side checked service. The Northeast Regional service shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment as well as secure funding agreements between Amtrak and several states.</p>

<p>There is great interest in Roanoke, VA to allow bikes on Northeast Regional trains. What steps is Amtrak taking with the many involved states to move this option forward, and do you have a schedule for when bikes on the Northeast Regional might be a reality?</p>	<p>Service to Roanoke is an extension of the Northeast Regional service. The service to Roanoke will not have a baggage car/checked baggage, so no checked bike service initially. The Northeast Regional service shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment.</p>
<p>What happened to the pilot project, which retrofit bike racks to the existing Amfleet cars? It rolled across New York for some trials but I have heard nothing since.</p>	<p>Plans are underway; however, the project will require extensive modifications to our entire Northeast fleet.</p>
<p>I want to roll my bike onto an Amtrak train in Albany, NY, and travel to the Adirondacks to ride. (I don't want to box my bike). When can I roll my bike onto a train and travel to the Adirondacks? This has been talked about for over two years yet I still don't think Amtrak offers this service. What's taking so long? This would benefit cyclists who want to explore the Adirondacks by bike, as well as increase ridership for Amtrak.</p>	<p>The Adirondack route does not have a baggage car, so will not have train side checked service. The Adirondack shares an equipment pool with the entire state of NY and Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our entire fleet into the Northeast. In addition, funding and schedules need to be coordinate between Amtrak, the State of NY as well as several other States in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.</p>

SOUTH EAST	
Theoretically, Amtrak service will be coming to Roanoke, Virginia in the next few months. Will "roll on" bike service be provided when Amtrak does arrive in Roanoke?	Service to Roanoke is an extension of the Northeast Regional service. The service to Roanoke will not have a baggage car/checked baggage, so no checked bike service initially. The Northeast Regional service shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment.
I sell bicycles to bike shops in VA, DC, and NC. I use my bicycle and Amtrak to do my job. I wish I could use Amtrak more. My home station is RVM Richmond Downtown . It is 1 mile from my house. I have to bike 8.5 miles to RVR Staples Mill to get a baggage-enabled station. When will RVM have baggage and bicycle abilities? I use Amtrak to go to Raleigh and DC. I would also like more frequent times to travel those routes.	We are working on opening up bicycle service at RVM and should be offering train side checked service this summer.
What assurance to passengers with bikes have that they won't be required to disassemble their carry-on bikes and put them in overhead storage? This is not a theoretical question, we were told we would have to do this on the Texas Eagle once, although a different conductor took pity on us and showed us a patch of floor space where we could stash our bikes instead. Also, a friend of ours actually had to do this, I'm not sure on which line.	If you reserve space on trains with train side checked bicycle service, like the Texas Eagle , the crew should hang your bicycle for you in the baggage car fully assembled and unboxed.
When you restore passenger travel from New Orleans east will you promote and facilitate bicycle tourists.	Since the Sunset Limited has baggage service, train side checked bike service will be available to/from staffed stations that offer checked baggage if passenger travel is restored on this route east of New Orleans
Will the Missouri River Runner accommodate bicycles? If so, when will service begin? How many bikes? I will have 5 cyclists in my group who want to take Amtrak from St Louis to Lee's Summit MO then bicycle back to St Louis on the Rock Island and Katy Trails. Looking forward to the service, thanks!	The Missouri River Runner currently offers Carry On bike service.

<p>The current rules and requirements at the Savannah, Georgia station is almost impossible to do. Why not copy the system in Seattle, The Sound Transit System has walk on accommodations for four bikes on hooks and a stand along bike? Sounds possible as a solution.</p>	<p>Savannah, Georgia offers unboxed Train side Checked Bike Service to/from all stations with checked baggage service. Since the train equipment in Seattle is different from what's used in Savannah, it would be impossible to replicate their carry-on service.</p>
<p>I plan to take the Texas Eagle from Chicago to Austin and back. Should my bike be packed in a case? Is a 47 X 30 X 11 case acceptable? Will it travel in a secure baggage car/compartiment or will I be responsible for it during the trip?</p>	<p>Passengers are welcome to pack their own bicycles in a case, although it's not required as long as you are traveling to/from a staffed station that offers checked baggage. Bike containers and/or bikes travel inside baggage cars and are handled by Amtrak crewmembers. The Texas Eagle offers Train side Checked service between Austin and Chicago. Check with the customer service agent at the station for details.</p>
<p>What is the cost to store a bike on the train: i.e. Lee's Summit, MO to St. Charles, MO, along the Katy Trail</p>	<p>Check Amtrak.com for pricing and availability.</p>
<p>When will we be able to wheel our bikes directly on to the train in Portland and go to Whitefish MO without having to take them apart and put in a box? Many people do not know how to take pedals off and may not be comfortable with turning their handlebars, or tightening them up after re-installing.</p>	<p>The Empire Builder splits off in Spokane and the baggage car travels to Seattle. We have projects underway to install bike racks on the Portland to Spokane section of the Empire Builder. When available we will announce via press release and offer for sale on Amtrak.com.</p>
<p>One of the longest rails to trail routes in the US ends in Anniston, AL (The Silver Comet / Chief Lageda Trail), yet there is no bike service available from the Amtrak station in Anniston. Any plans to fix that?</p>	<p>Amtrak is working with the State of Alabama on expanding bike service to Anniston. Enhancements to the platform will need to be made to safely accommodate bikes.</p>
<p>When will you offer roll on (not boxed) bicycle access on the Texas Eagle? Specifically between Dallas and Texarkana?</p>	<p>We no longer require you to box your bike on the Texas Eagle, which offers train side checked bicycle service. Check Amtrak.com for availability and to book your space. Also visit amtrak.com/bikes for details on policies/where we offer service.</p>
<p>I want to take my bike on the Crescent line between Washington DC and Greenville, SC. I noticed that this line requires you to check your bike at the baggage car. Will I be able to take the bike off the train and back on at Greenville, SC?</p>	<p>Yes! Make sure to reserve your space on Amtrak.com and check in with an Amtrak crewmember on the platform to receive a claim check for your bicycle.</p>

QUESTIONS ON SPECIFIC LINES- WEST	(NOTE- see West Coast for CA, OR and WA)
Will Amtrak consider 'roll on-roll off' service on long distance trains? I want to access stations with my bicycle (Elko, NV) that currently do not have checked baggage service.	We are working on modifying more equipment to expand Carry On Service to more long distance trains, including the California Zephyr . Elko, Nev should have carry-on service by next year. We will update our reservation system once that becomes available and "Add Bike To Trip" will show up on Amtrak.com.
Is it possible to take my bicycle (with touring racks) on board in Denver and travel by Amtrak train with it to Vancouver, Canada? Is there such a thing as a "get-off and get-back on" privilege that would allow me to use my bicycle to briefly tour cities and towns where the train stops during travel?	It is possible to check your bicycle on the CA Zephyr, the Coast Starlight, Amtrak Cascades and Pacific Northwest Interline buses. There are no on/off privileges for bicycles meaning you'll need to reserve space ahead of time and pay a bicycle fee every time you take the train.
Will there be bike accommodations on train cars for the Southwest Chief? I would like to take the train from Albuquerque to Gallup, NM and ride back. At present, the only option is to disassemble the bike and check as baggage. Thanks!	The Southwest Chief offers unboxed train side checked bicycle service at staffed stations that offer checked baggage. We no longer require you to box your bike except for between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder. Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks.
When do you expect to have roll-on bike service on the Southwest Chief where I can roll-on my bike in Flagstaff?	The Southwest Chief has train side checked bicycle service from Flagstaff right now. As long as you're traveling to another staffed station with checked baggage service, you can check your bikes (unboxed) on this train. Customers can also search for specific station amenities at https://www.amtrak.com/find-train-bus-stations-train-routes . "Checked baggage service" will appear under the "Baggage" tab on individual station information pages.
Can service at smaller stations such as the one in Fraser, Colorado be expanded to allow bike loading? I currently have to board in Denver if I want to travel with my bike.	Fraser-Winter Park currently offers Train side Checked Bike Service.
Would you please make sure to offer -- and publicize -- the opportunity for bicyclists to catch a ride on the trolley that goes from Crater Lake National Park to Klamath Falls? This is an important shuttle.	Thanks for the tip! We will evaluate where this content could be best promoted.

I'm planning a bike tour around **Glacier National Park**, and wonder if I can take my bike in a hard shell case with rollers from **New Jersey to Glacier**. The trains would be the Northeast Regional, Capital Limited and Empire Builder, or alternatively the Cardinal and Empire Builder. Thanks!

The Cardinal and Empire Builder are your best bets. Visit your local station to speak with a customer service agent about handling your bike case.

WEST COAST	
What will it take to have roll-on/roll-off service on the Coast Starlight and other long-distance trains similar to the service on the Cascades trains? I'd be willing to pay an extra \$5 or \$10 for this convenience. I often travel between Salem and Klamath Falls and would love to take my bike along easily.	Train side checked bicycle service is available on the Coast Starlight between Klamath Falls and Salem for \$20 each way. The process is similar to the Cascades where you reserve the space ahead of time and hand your bike to a train attendant who will hang your bike for you in the baggage car/bike storage area.
When will bike service be available on the Coast Starlight ? The train goes to the most bike friendly city in the nation, Portland, OR, which definitely warrants a train with easy bike accommodation (also hits Seattle and San Francisco, other bike friendly cities). I live in Redding, CA where I cannot even load my bike on, as the stop has no checked baggage. Bikes shouldn't be counted as checked baggage; they should be easily rolled on and off the train (with no assembly or disassembly) and easily hung on a rack. Thank you for considering adding easily accessible bike facilities on the Coast Starlight.	We will evaluate whether Redding, CA can safely handle bicycles. Currently, that station does not offer checked baggage service. There are several factors we consider like platform length, height from the platform to the baggage car door, etc. when making this decision.
What bike service is available along the California Coast and up to Vancouver, BC	Take the Coast Starlight (LA to Seattle) and transfer to the Amtrak Cascades (continues to Vancouver). Both trains have checked bicycle service.
Why can't I wheel a bike on to the Coast Starlight ? I would like to use the train to get from Simi Valley, CA to Salinas, CA and then ride down Highway 1 on my bike. As the rules stand now I would have to box up my bike and depart from Van Nuys, or Camarillo instead - a serious inconvenience!	We do not require you to box your bicycle on the Coast Starlight. We offer train side checked service on the Coast Starlight at only at staffed stations that offer checked baggage.
Any plans for bicycle service on the west coast this summer?	Visit Amtrak.com/bikes
How can our bicycle group get a dedicated train car to return from San Diego back to Anaheim ?	The maximum number of bikes we can carry between San Diego and Anaheim is 6.

<p>Can you make the bike procedure simpler and the same for all routes on the same line? We have to follow different rules going round-trip from Olympia which makes it impossible to bring our bikes. No box requirement is what we need.</p>	<p>We no longer require you to box your bike except for between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder. Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks.</p>
<p>I am planning an Amtrak trip (LOVE AMTRAK!) with my bicycle from Los Angeles to Chicago and back on Southwest Chief. I think I can carry my bicycle unboxed or boxed and it costs the same. Would it be possible to provide more details on your website as to whether bicycles are carried unboxed or boxed, in the carriage or in the guards van, etc? For example, if a trip involves a section that allows unboxed and a section that requires boxes it would be great to know during the planning stage that I really need to box the bike at the start. The "Add Bicycle" popup would be ideal for this.</p>	<p>Visit amtrak.com/bikes. We no longer require you to box your bike except for between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder. Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks.</p>
<p>Is it possible to get on Amtrak in Truckee, CA with my bike (not getting boxed up), and arrive in Fruita and roll right off and go riding? If this is not currently available, when will it be?</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>We are working to open up bike service to unstaffed stations where the above conditions are met and overall service isn't negatively affected.</p>
<p>When I lived in Utah I took the California Zephyr to California on a regular basis, but found it very difficult to bring my bicycle because only certain stations allowed me to put my bike on/take it off. (My local station did not allow this) Are there plans to allow bikes to board at all stations on the CA Zephyr? Thanks!</p>	<p>We have plans to offer bike service at all stations on the California Zephyr, but we must finish modifying our equipment first. For now, we require passengers to check their bike in the baggage car, which requires travel to/from a staffed station with checked baggage.</p>

<p>The Carry-On service is only offered in the NW on the Cascades train. What can riders do to request carry-on service be extended to California?</p>	<p>Train side checked bicycle service is available on the Coast Starlight for \$20 each way. The process is similar to the Cascades where you reserve the space ahead of time, check in with a station attendant for a claim check, and hand your bike to a train attendant who will hang it in the baggage car.</p>
<p>Why did Bike Service essentially stop on service between Solana Beach, CA and Irvine, CA two years ago? Since then while we follow AMTRAK Policy allowing Bikes on the Cars (Extra Fees, Reservations) have been at the discretion of the Conductors and they have never to seldom grant bike access to the trains. We stopped using AMTRAK because of the risk. (of not be allowed on the trains with the bikes.)</p>	<p>Carry on bike service is available on the Pacific Surfliner between these stations. Reserve your space ahead of time to guarantee your spot.</p>
<p>I am the President of the Covina Cycle Club. For the past several years we have been unable to have our annual 100 mile ride from Anaheim to San Diego because Amtrak has a 7 bike limit on the train from San Diego back to Anaheim. This annual ride was usually held on a Saturday between the months of September and November. The first year that I joined the club we were able to have a dedicated train car for the 15 -20 riders that participated. However, for the past three years that I was president I have been unable to find out from Amtrak if this is possible. My questions are as follows. 1) Is there a way for the Covina Cycle Club to have a car dedicated for their riders to return to Anaheim after completing the Century in San Diego's Old Town? 2.) What would procedure? 3.) Who would we have to contact to make this possible. Thank you very much for your assistance with this matter.</p>	<p>The LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency and the Orange County Transportation Authority determine the equipment used and bicycle availability/inventory on Pacific Surfliner trains. Contact the Amtrak Group Travel Request desk at https://www.amtrak.com/group-travel-requests. The Group Travel agents will work with the state rail agency to determine whether their request is feasible or not. Group travel is subject to equipment availability as well as general availability on any particular train.</p>
<p>Does the Coast Starlight allow for unboxed bikes now? If so, how many?</p>	<p>Yes. We can accommodate up to six bikes on the Coast Starlight. Visit Amtrak.com to check availability and to reserve your space.</p>

<p>When can we expect roll-on bike capability in California, on the Coast Starlight specifically, but also on all Amtrak trains??? This service needs to be provided across the board, not just on a couple of routes.</p>	<p>We can accommodate up to six bikes in the baggage car on the Coast Starlight. Visit Amtrak.com to check availability and to reserve your space.</p>
<p>Does the Empire Builder have walk-on bike facilities at their Spokane Station? And also the Portland, Oregon station?</p>	<p>The Empire Builder splits off at Spokane and the baggage car travels through to Seattle. A project is underway to modify our equipment so that carry on bike service can be provided between Portland and Spokane. Until then, we still require you to box your bicycle on this portion of the Empire Builder. We will announce via press release when this becomes available as well as offer it for sale on Amtrak.com</p>
<p>Will you please include the Empire Builder as one of the routes that will accommodate and advocate easy access for cyclists? If so, could a passenger place their bike on a hook or some such apparatus, whereby the bike does not need to be placed in a box for transport on train?</p>	<p>The Empire Builder currently has train side checked bicycle service at all staffed stations that offer checked baggage as well as at the Glacier Park stations (when they are open seasonally) and at Winona, IL. Passengers traveling between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder are still required to box their bicycles until additional bike racks are installed on this equipment.</p>
<p>I would like to know when we would get walk on for the California Zephyr?</p>	<p>Train side Checked (unboxed) bicycle service is available now on the CA Zephyr.</p>
<p>We live in the San Francisco Bay Area and we have repeatedly tried to plan vacations with our bikes via Amtrak without success. For example, Emeryville to Truckee or the Auburn area or Eugene or small towns in Colorado. If a train station does not have baggage service, there is no way to retrieve your bike or load a bike at the intended destination. How can Amtrak make smaller train stations accessible for bicycle travelers? Thank you.</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>If the above conditions are met safely and efficiently, we generally will open up the space. We have an extensive queue of unstaffed stations to evaluate at the moment. Once available we will open up for sale on Amtrak.com.</p>

<p>Will there be a way to load or unload bikes at station that don't have full baggage car service, e.g. California Zephyr at Truckee?</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>That being said if the above conditions are met safely and efficiently, we generally will open up the space. We have an extensive queue of unstaffed stations to evaluate at the moment. Once available we will open up for sale on Amtrak.com.</p>
<p>Is Amtrak considering Carry-On Bicycle Service for the Coast Starlight?</p>	<p>Train side Checked (unboxed) Bike Service is available on the Coast Starlight. Check Amtrak.com for availability and to reserve your space.</p>
<p>When will Amtrak employ roll-on / roll-off at all stops? I would use the Zephyr much, much more if I could roll off at stops without checked baggage.</p>	<p>Projects are underway to expand carry on bike service to all stations along the California Zephyr route. Since equipment and station/platform infrastructure varies so much across the country, standardized roll-on service nationwide is almost impossible.</p>
<p>As a business owner in Washington, a town which sees many tourists come in on Amtrak, and which access the Katy Trail, a popular bicycle trail, we want to know if Amtrak is doing anything to increase accommodations for cyclists along the River Runner route which runs along the Katy trail from Washington to Kansas City.</p>	<p>We recognize that the Missouri River Runner is a popular route for cyclists. There are no immediate plans to increase bicycle capacity on that route but it is definitely on our radar.</p>
<p>Amtrak loves bikes? Not on the Surfliner--for some reason, only 6 bikes allowed per train. Also, going from San Diego to SLO, no guarantee that my bike will fit on the Amtrak bus--I had to take my chances at a friendly bus driver. When will Amtrak truly become bike friendly and permit a more reasonable number of bikes on the train (and guarantee it all the way)?</p>	<p>The LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency and the Orange County Transportation Authority determine the equipment used and bicycle availability/inventory on Pacific Surfliner trains.</p>

<p>QUESTIONS ABOUT BOARDING AND SAFETY OF BIKE ON TRAIN</p>	
<p>How do I determine if I can take along an unboxed bike at a particular station? I went to the Amtrak site very recently and it still was not clear. In the past I could only take boxed bikes on board at my station.</p>	<p>If the "Add Bike to Trip" button shows up on Amtrak.com between your origin and destination cities, you no longer have to box your bike. The Portland to Spokane portion of the Empire Builder is currently the only train that requires you box your bike.</p>
<p>Can you make it easier to find out how to get a bike on an Amtrak train; whether it needs to be boxed, any extra fees, etc.</p>	<p>Visit Amtrak.com/bikes</p>
<p>How will bikes be secured on the train? Can they be taken across country? like Philadelphia to Chicago...then when you want to go eat in a different car, where are the bikes? Are they locked? Do they stay in your local proximity/ seats? I am actually considering this trip this summer...</p>	<p>You'll need to take the Amtrak Cardinal if traveling between Philadelphia and Chicago with your bike. This train offers train side checked bicycle service and the cost is \$20 each way. Your bicycle will be stored inside the baggage car by an Amtrak crewmember and you'll need to retrieve it from the baggage car when you arrive at your destination.</p>
<p>If you are able to bring bikes fully assembled on all Amtrak trains, where will they be stored while riding the train?</p>	<p>On trains with Train side Checked service; bikes are stored inside of baggage cars where only crewmembers are allowed. On trains with 'Carry On' service, customers hang bicycles themselves inside designated areas within passenger coaches.</p>
<p>What security is provided for bikes brought on-board?</p>	<p>You are welcome to lock your bike when it is stored on board. When bikes are stored in baggage cars, only Amtrak personnel have access to that area of the train.</p>
<p>I cannot lift my bike, what accommodations can you provide people getting on and off the train and secure bike parking inside the train?</p>	<p>Customers are welcome to bring their own bike locks to secure their bicycles to the racks. Amtrak equipment was ordered over four decades ago without bikes in mind at the time. Combined with varying platform heights and lengths at stations Amtrak does not own, for now, we require customers to be able to lift their bicycles. Boxed bicycles are handled by train crews and station personnel so that is your best bet to ensure you won't have to lift your bicycle onto the train.</p>

<p>Will there be a way to load or unload bikes at station that don't have full baggage car service, e.g. California Zephyr at Truckee?</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>That being said if the above conditions are met safely and efficiently, we generally will open up the space. We have an extensive queue of unstaffed stations to evaluate at the moment. Once available we will open up for sale on Amtrak.com.</p>
<p>I find availability of service completely confusing. On some trains you can walk in your bike, others you have to give it to an attendant, in others yet it needs to be packed in a box. Could this information be available at ticket purchasing time</p>	<p>Amtrak train equipment varies across the country; hence the difference in bicycle storage across different trains. To figure out which trains offer which service check out Amtrak.com/bikes. We are working on updates to our reservation system in the meantime so distinctions between services will eventually be available when you book your trip.</p>

GENERAL QUESTIONS	
BICYCLE TOURING: How do I take my bike on Amtrak cross-country?	Visit amtrak.com/bikes . We offer train side checked bicycle on all Long Distance to/from staffed stations that offer checked baggage.
BICYCLE TOURING: I am interested in bicycle touring and would like to be able to get my bike on the train without disassembling it. Can we get a rear car for bicycles only like they do in Europe? I think Amtrak can make a great leap in the touring industry for bikers to get to and from their destinations. It would be awesome!	Visit amtrak.com/bikes . We no longer require you to disassemble your bike and box it (except for between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder).
BOXING BIKES: Are the trains/routes/individual stations that permit bicycles 1) with no box and 2) in a box, readily identified on the Amtrak website? If not, how would one find out?	We no longer require you to box your bicycle except for the Portland to Spokane leg of the Empire Builder. Visit amtrak.com/bikes for all the info.
BOXING BIKES: Not a question, but I would like to say that I'd like a policy where we don't have to box bikes. If I want to bicycle over several days and take the train back, it is difficult if not near impossible to box the bike.	We no longer require you to box your bike except for between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder. Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks.
BOXING BIKES: Why to you make cyclists box bicycles? Especially if travelling by bicycle (and train) this is an extra expense and hassle...	We no longer require you to box your bike except for between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder. Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks.
BOXING BIKES: Will you have special box cars for bicycles, as opposed to taking the bicycles apart and putting them in boxes?	We no longer require you to box your bike on any train with bike service except for between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder. Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks.
INCREASE SERVICE: I do not understand why bike are not allowed on all routes. As an example I will be doing a ride in Lancaster, PA in August. Although a train goes there from NYC the train does not take bikes. I travel often in Europe and bikes are not a problem. In Italy the first car of every train has racks for bikes except for the very fast trains.	We are planning to expand bike service to more stations and routes, but since our equipment varies across the system it would be impossible to offer identical carry on service nationwide. There are a number of variables in addition to cost. Track, station and tunnel infrastructure play a huge role. For example, Superliner cars (bi-level equipment) will not fit in the Hudson River Tunnels in NY, or the tunnels at Washington Union Station. This is one of many examples of why equipment varies across our network.

<p>INCREASE SERVICE: I've used the bike service quite a lot. On the Cascades route I was usually able to check my bike without the massive hassle, risk of damage, and expense of putting it in a box. Plus I can ride to the station and ride away at my destination, making me far more likely to choose Amtrak over options. I gladly pay \$5 or \$10 for that service. My question is: Can you provide this service on all Amtrak lines? If not, why? The baggage cars appear to have plenty of room. Thanks!</p>	<p>We no longer require you to box your bike except for between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder. Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks.</p>
<p>INCREASE SERVICE: We applaud AMTRAK's willingness to install roll-on service aboard the Capitol Limited train. This required several years to complete (from when AMTRAK first pledged to offer this service). Two questions: WHEN will AMTRAK expand roll-on service nationally, and WHAT is AMTRAK doing to remove the barriers that delay further deployment? Thank you!</p>	<p>We are planning to expand this service to additional routes, but since our equipment varies across the system it would be impossible to offer similar carry on service nationwide.</p>
<p>INCREASE SERVICE: What is the timeline for having "roll on" bike service for the whole Amtrak system? What about the Empire Builder in particular?</p>	<p>Since equipment and station and platform infrastructure varies across the system it's nearly impossible to offer identical "roll on" service nationwide. The Empire Builder currently offers Train side Checked bicycle service. We currently require you to box your bike between Portland and Spokane, however projects are underway to modify equipment to expand carry on service to this leg of the route.</p>
<p>INCREASE SERVICE: Will there be bicycle service on all trains? Which stops will be available for loading and unloading bikes? Will bikes be allowed on Amtrak buses?</p>	<p>We are working to expand bike service to as many stations as possible. For the most up-to-date info on where you can take your bike visit amtrak.com/bikes</p>

<p>INCREASE SERVICE: Would it be possible to offer bike service on all routes and schedules? I wanted to take my bicycle from Boston to Newark this past autumn and there were only 5 spaces allotted for bicycles on the train and it arrived at 3:00 a.m. This is not a practical way to travel with my bicycle for me.</p>	<p>Since equipment, stations and platform infrastructure vary across the country it's impossible to offer identical bike service on all routes and at all stations.</p> <p>Northeast Regional trains use Amfleet equipment which went into service in the 1970s without bicycle carriage in mind. Most Northeast Regional trains do not have baggage service so cannot offer train side checked service. The Northeast Regional service shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment as well as secure funding agreements between Amtrak and several states.</p>
<p>INCREASE SERVICE: Could you please ramp up your services so that bike riders can bring their bikes on every train (or almost every train)?</p>	<p>Since equipment, stations and platform infrastructure vary across the country it's impossible to offer identical bike service on all routes and at all stations. We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>If the above conditions are met safely and efficiently, we generally will open up the space. We have an extensive queue of unstaffed stations to evaluate at the moment. Once available we will open up for sale on Amtrak.com.</p>
<p>INCREASE SERVICE? Are there any plans to increase the number of locations Amtrak serves to include baggage service so that bikes may be checked? e.g. I once tried to take a bike with me from Oceanside to Cincinnati via Chicago, but could not because there was no baggage service from Chicago to Cincinnati.</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p>

<p>INCREASE SERVICE When will it be available for the train lines that don't have it yet, like the Keystone or Northeast Corridor? Bikes are an important part of multimodal transportation, and it would be great to have this option on these lines.</p>	<p>Plans are underway; however, the project will require extensive modifications to our entire Northeast fleet. Northeast Regional and Keystone trains use Amfleet equipment which went into service in the 1970s without bicycle carriage in mind. Most Northeast Regional trains do not have baggage service so cannot offer train side checked service. The Northeast Regional service shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment as well as secure funding agreements between Amtrak and several states.</p>
<p>INCREASED SERVICE: What plans does Amtrak have to install bike racks at each of their train stations?</p>	<p>Many stations are owned by states or local governments. Your best bet is to advocate at the local level for bike racks at stations.</p>
<p>LIMITED SERVICE: Why is the number of trains so limited? For example, to bring a bike from Boston to DC by train requires an overnight train ride, which hardly leaves the rider in shape to start a bike tour upon arrival, and also requires payment for an unused night of lodging to be able to rest up to begin a journey or even stay for sightseeing. I understand that bikes might take up seating, but since you are already severely limiting the number of bikes on any train, it would be greatly appreciated if cyclists could roll and ride during reasonable hours.</p>	<p>Trains 65,66,67 are the only Northeast Regional trains with a baggage car/checked bicycle service. We are working on a longer-term solution to modify the equipment in the Northeastern United states to expand carry-on bike service to Northeast Regional trains.</p>
<p>MAJOR CITIES: Why can't you have bike service to major cities, even if it is only on a few services a day? We would love to take our bikes to New York, to Williamsburg, to Charlottesville, to Lancaster (PA), and more. If you had a car (as Caltrain does) where we could just hook the bike on or off, it would be easy to grab the bike and get off at a station - no special bike car loading and unloading needed.</p>	<p>We offer train side checked and carry on bike service to most major cities. Visit Amtrak.com/bikes for details on which routes carry bicycles.</p>

<p>NON-BAGGAGE STOPS: Some station, even those with long platforms (such as Wenatchee WA) do not allow loading and unloading of bikes. The reason seems to be "There is no baggage master at the station. Since one needs to hand the bike directly into the baggage car, why must there be a baggage master?"</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>If the above conditions are met and approved by train crews and train operations staff, we will open up the space. Since there are a number of unstaffed stations under review, we will add Champaign to our queue to evaluate. Thanks for the tip.</p>
<p>NON-BAGGAGE STOPS: What can be done to allow bikes to be boarded at non-luggage stops? Currently I have to go into Chicago to find a luggage stop. Next one is 100+ miles west</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>We are working to open up bike service to unstaffed stations where the above conditions are met and overall service isn't negatively affected.</p>
<p>NON-BAGGAGE STOPS: In the past, when I've traveled by Amtrak with my bike, I've been limited to stations with baggage handling for being able to load and unload my bike. This was very limiting in where I could go and start my trip. Is this limitation still in place? If yes, are there any plans to change this policy?</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>That being said if the above conditions are met safely and efficiently, we generally will open up the space. We have an extensive queue of unstaffed stations to evaluate at the moment. Once available we will open up for sale on Amtrak.com.</p>
<p>OLDER AMERICAN DISCOUNT: Will Amtrak and bike service be affordable for seniors on fixed incomes? I loved riding the trains in the 1950s and my wife and I would not hesitate to travel America with our bikes if</p>	<p>Compared to flying with a bicycle, which will run you a minimum of \$100 each way, our \$20 fee is way more affordable.</p>

<p>it were affordable. Being able to take a road bike and a mountain bike would truly, be living the dream.</p>	
<p>ROLL ON AT UN STAFFED STATIONS: When will you allow passenger roll-on bike service at stations that do not have Amtrak personnel on-site to load your bike? Now I have to ship my bike to US Post Offices in cities that have stations but no Amtrak personnel. I consider that bad service. Plus it's a major hassle (and costly) to ship your bike and not to be allowed to simply bring your bike along with you on the train. Thank you.</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at unstaffed stations. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p>
<p>STORAGE AREAS: I'd like to see a photo of what the bike storage looks like on the different trains. I really want to take a train from Reno to Portland and ride back down along the coast of Oregon. I looked it up and it appears there are ways for me to do so without having to disassemble and reassemble my bike--which is a huge plus for me. I just want to see what the storage area looks like for bikes.</p>	<p>Bikes are stored either in baggage cars on racks and handled by train crews or by passengers in designated bike rack areas inside passenger coaches. Visit amtrak.com/bikes for details.</p>
<p>STORAGE: Are these bicycle racks inside or outside the train cabins? Are the bicycles exposed to the elements?</p>	<p>Bike racks are always inside of passenger coaches or baggage cars.</p>
<p>TRAINS WITH BIKE STORAGE: Yes please explain which trains routes will have roll on bike storage racks. Rates and bicycles allowed. Will pedalec bikes be allowed?</p>	<p>Visit Amtrak.com/bikes</p>

<p>UNEVEN RULES: Why do you maintain a policy that is unevenly enforced stating that all bags and other items need to be removed from my bike to take it on Amtrak Cascades roll-on service? I have bags that are permanently attached and cannot easily be removed, and I've got no issue taking my bike as such on any other form of transportation. I've had major issues with baggage handlers over the years due to their adherence to this outdated policy, and I refuse to bring my bike on Amtrak until it is rectified. In the meantime, I can ride on Bolt Bus for much cheaper and bring a fully loaded touring bike on without so much as an extra fee. Until you fix this, you've lost a previous happy customer, and an entire group of touring cyclists whose travels could be made so much easier with a more lenient and consistent bike policy nationwide. I don't care about the liability of my bags. I just don't want to be harassed by every other baggage agent about my mode of transportation. Thank you.</p>	<p>We require this mainly for two reasons, both of which make things easier for you:</p> <p>Bicycles are hung vertically by their front or back wheels using special bike tire hooks. The added weight from attached bags puts a lot of stress on your wheels as the bicycle hangs during your journey. Removing panniers and bags minimizes the risk of damage to you during boarding or your bicycle during the journey.</p> <p>The boarding process moves fairly quickly (in some cases in under five minutes or less). Removing and consolidating any larger bicycle bags and accessories will make this process go a lot smoother for you and other passengers.</p>
<p>UNEVEN RULES; Why is bike service only allowed at certain stations? Are there any plans to expand service to all stations?</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p>

<p>UNEVEN RULES: I have used the Amtrak Cascade, the Pacific Surfliner, the Missouri River Runner, and the Carl Sandburg without boxing my bike. It wasn't always hassling free, but I was able to do it. However, my train to/from my hometown, Albuquerque, is the SW Chief. Not having to box my bike on the SW Chief is a real game changer. Unfortunately, the places where I can embark and disembark with my touring bike on the SW Chief are very limited. With more and more people touring; especially Historic Route 66 it would be great if we could quickly and easily load and unload in more places; especially in California. The Mohave Desert can be a real show stopper for touring cyclists any time of the year. Specifically I'm wondering about the fact that there are no checked baggage stops between Flagstaff and Fullerton. Not even Williams, AZ, which is where you would ideally embark/disembark for the Grand Canyon. The same situation exists on the southern Amtrak routes. The Natchez Trace Parkway is a popular touring route, which I am going to check off my bucket list this Fall. However, there was no way to use Amtrak with my touring bike, because there are so few checked bag stops. I typically spend several thousand dollars per tour, but unfortunately Amtrak will not be getting any of it this time. In any case, thank you for not having to box or ship my bike separately more of the time. I love riding the train, but it has to be practical too.</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>We are working to open up bike service to unstaffed stations where the above conditions are met and overall service isn't negatively affected.</p>
<p>UNEVEN RULES: Roll Up (no boxing, but bike in baggage car) is great, but there are a lot of stops where it's not available. Even if there isn't normally baggage service, there doesn't seem to be a reason why you can't offer this service at every stop.</p>	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule</p>

	implications.
UNEVEN RULES: Why does Amtrak have different bike policies on different lines, including some that require boxing up a bike before boarding (but not providing boxes at the stations)? This makes it unbearably complicated to plan travel and dissuades customers from intermodal options and "first/final mile" connectivity by bike. Has Amtrak reconsidered this piecemeal approach?	<p>We no longer require you to box your bike except for between Portland and Spokane on the Empire Builder. Currently, only standard size bicycles (50 lbs. or less, 70" x 41" x 8.5") will fit in our racks. Visit Amtrak.com/bikes for a full list of routes and policies.</p> <p>Equipment is limited – we can't increase bike rack inventory at the expense of passenger seating and operational efficiency.</p> <p>Equipment is used interchangeably – we need more bike rack coaches than you would think to be able to offer bike service</p> <p>Funds are generally limited and have a lot of competing demands</p> <p>Equipment is old, and in some cases it is not clear whether we should invest in bike racks for today's equipment or wait for the next generation.</p>
UNEVEN RULES: Why does Amtrak only accept bikes at SOME stations, even on a train that's supposed to be equipped for bicycles	<p>We have to take a number of things into account when determining whether to offer bike service at an unstaffed station. Mainly: 1) platform height - is it safe for passengers to lift their bicycles up to a crewmember inside the baggage car? 2) Platform length/condition - If the train requires a double stop due to a short platform, we must get permission from the host/freight railroad to do so. This also has schedule implications.</p> <p>That being said if the above conditions are met safely and efficiently, we generally will open up the space. We have an extensive queue of unstaffed stations to evaluate at the moment. Once available we will open up for sale on Amtrak.com.</p>
UNEVEN SERVICE: Wouldn't it be easier for you if all rail lines could take bikes in a roll on/roll off way? Dispense with the bother of boxes and where to store them.	Since equipment and station infrastructure varies across the system, it's impossible to offer identical roll on service nationwide. We no longer require you to box your bicycle except for on the Portland to Spokane portion of the Empire Builder.
WEBSITE: My question(s) are basically what you said will be discussed at the summit meeting: How can I find out about bike access, specific routes and stations,	Visit amtrak.com/bikes

and how to bring my bike on an Amtrak train?	
WEBSITE: where can you find info on the internet/station about what you need to get your bike on the train? Cost/box/on train itself	Visit amtrak.com/bikes
WEBSITE/ REGISTRATION: Will you make it clear when searching for an Amtrak route on your web site, without the need to visit other pages on your web site, that bike rack access (no need to box my bike), including the number of racks, is available on the route I want to take?	An "Add Bike to Trip" button will appear if space is available on Amtrak.com.
WORK W/ COMMUTER RAIL: How closely is Amtrak working with county commuter rail/train transportation agencies in making connections seamless or, better yet, an actual thing in California?	We work very closely with our commuter partners on optimizing intermodal transportation; however with varying equipment and infrastructure across the United States it will be a significant work in progress.
WORKING W/ COMMUTER LINES:I reside in Utah and Virginia. The UTA welcomes bicycles. I triple my use of Amtrak in the NE corridor if the trains were bicycle friendly. Why is it so challenging to bring a bike on Amtrak?	Northeast Regional trains use Amfleet equipment which went into service in the 1970s without bicycle carriage in mind. Most Northeast Regional trains do not have baggage service so cannot offer train side checked service. The Northeast Regional service shares an equipment pool with the entire Northeastern United States. In order to provide carry-on bike service, we'll need to make extensive modifications to our equipment as well as secure funding agreements between Amtrak and several states.