

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2016

ATK-16-028
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ROLLING EASY: BICYCLES WELCOMED ABOARD AMTRAK *PERE MARQUETTE* TRAINS Reservations required; \$10 charge

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. – In time for [National Bike Month](#), Amtrak and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) are announcing an improvement on the daily [Pere Marquette](#) train between Grand Rapids and Chicago, via Holland and St. Joseph-Benton Harbor.

“We have mounted 15 bike racks in the control unit on each of the *Pere Marquette* trains in Michigan,” said Jim Brzezinski, Amtrak Senior Regional Director, State Corridors. “This makes bringing your bike along on these trips easy and gets you on your wheels and pedaling away immediately after arrival.”

“We are pleased Amtrak is now offering checked bike service on the *Pere Marquette*,” Tim Hoeffner, Michigan Department of Transportation Office of Rail Director, said. “This service will be very convenient for bicyclists as West Michigan has a lot to offer with a vast array of recreational trails, including U.S. Bicycle Route 35.”

Customers must reserve space for their bikes by selecting “add bike” when they book their train travel on Amtrak.com, by calling 800-USA-RAIL, using the staffed ticket office in Chicago, or by using Quik-TrakSM kiosks. There is a \$10 charge per bicycle.

Amtrak operates the daily *Pere Marquette* trains under a sponsorship by MDOT, with more than 95,000 passengers last year.

About Amtrak®

Amtrak – America’s Railroad® – is dedicated to safe and reliable mobility as the nation’s intercity passenger rail service provider and its high-speed rail operator. With our state and commuter partners, we move people, the economy and the nation forward, carrying more than 30 million Amtrak passengers for each of the past five years. Formally known as the National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak is governed by a nine member board of directors appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. Anthony R. Coscia is board chairman and Jeffrey R. Moreland is vice chairman. Amtrak operates more than 300 trains daily – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – connecting more than 500 destinations in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Learn more at Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and other information. Check us out at blog.Amtrak.com, like us on Facebook.com and Follow us on Twitter @Amtrak

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NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

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Walk-up Checked Bike Service Begins Aboard the *Pere Marquette*



Effective May 6, 2016

Amtrak and the Michigan Department of Transportation will offer walk-up checked bike service aboard the *Pere Marquette* at the Chicago, St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Holland and Grand Rapids stations for only \$10, starting May 6.

Reservations Required: Bicycle reservations are required and bike tickets must be presented to the conductor when boarding the train. Passengers can reserve space for their bikes by selecting "add bike" when they book their train travel on Amtrak.com, by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL (1-800-872-7245) and at Amtrak ticket offices. Passengers can also make reservations at the Chicago ticket office and at Quik-Trak® ticketing kiosks at Chicago, St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Holland and Grand Rapids. Bike reservations cannot be made through Amtrak mobile apps. Only one bike is permitted per person.

Passengers will be provided a bike tag by station employees in Chicago and by the train crew at St. Joseph-Benton, Harbor, Holland and Grand Rapids. Passenger must present their bike tag at the baggage car to retrieve their bike from the train crew at their destination.



Arrive Early: Passengers checking bikes must arrive 30 minutes prior to train departure to allow sufficient time to obtain their ticket and baggage tag, and to get their bike to the baggage car.

Eligible Bikes: Only standard size bikes will be permitted. Large seat/saddle bags must be removed from the bikes. These items can be carried on the train and will count as a carry-on item.

Loading Bikes: Passengers must be physically capable of lifting their bike up to shoulder height to an employee standing in the baggage car. Passengers are not permitted in this car. Amtrak personnel will store and secure the bike to the bike racks.

Thank you for choosing Amtrak.

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