



Operation Changes: From Sept. 19-21, southbound *Carolinian* Train 79 will operate as a combined train with *Palmetto* Train 89 at all stations between New York and Rocky Mount, N.C. Upon arrival in Rocky Mount, the trains will be separated and Train 79 will operate to Charlotte according to the normal schedule.

Finance: Employees are reminded that all unpaid invoices, purchase orders and eTrax requests must be submitted to Accounts Payable as soon as possible so they can be recorded before the close of the fiscal year. To ensure entry into AAMPS, invoices must be delivered to Accounts Payable no later than Sept. 15.

Payroll: All employees can now view their paycheck online, days in advance of it being issued. Log on to the Employee Information Portal, and go to "Benefits and Payment" → "Salary Statement."

Amtrak Joins Unions and FRA in "Close Call Reporting"

Amtrak announced today its participation in a risk-reduction pilot program that allows employees to confidentially report "close call" events that could have resulted in an accident or injury. Close Call Reporting is sponsored by the Federal Railroad Administration, and Amtrak is partnering with the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen (BLET) and the United Transportation Union (UTU) Conductors and Yardmasters to launch the program at several rail yards in the Northeast, Midwest and West Coast.

"We want to take safety to the next level by identifying and then mitigating or removing risk before a serious incident occurs," said President and CEO Joseph Boardman.

By reporting close calls anonymously and without the potential for disciplinary action, employees and managers will be able to identify potential risks and take action to remove any barriers to safety that might exist. To ensure the confidentiality of any close call reports, employees will report events to NASA, which has years of experience with risk-reduction, for processing. Then, a Peer Review Team with representatives from Amtrak, FRA, BLET and UTU will analyze the report and determine ways to reduce the risk of future incidents.

Examples of a close call event include leaving a piece of equipment unsecured to operating a train beyond its track authority. Incidents that do result in an injury or accident must still be reported through the traditional reporting structure.

"Close Call Reporting aligns perfectly with our Safe-2-Safer approach," said Chief Operating Officer William Crosbie. "It focuses on reducing risks through better relationships between employees and managers, and collaboration between management and unions."

As of press time, nearly every unit within BLET and UTU had signed on to Close Call Reporting. "We are continuing to work in partnership with UTU Zone 1 leadership so they are comfortable and confident about joining the program," said Crosbie.

Ridership Remains Strong; Record Year Still Possible

Ridership and ticket revenue numbers for August are in, and with only one month remaining in the fiscal year, Amtrak is still in position to possibly set an all-time annual ridership record. The company carried 2.54 million passengers in August, generating \$152 million in ticket revenue. Year-to-date totals for ridership and revenue are at 26.4 million and \$1.6 billion, respectively. Amtrak will need to carry approximately 2.3 million riders in September to set a record.

"If we all do our best to provide service that results in a repeat trip or prompts just one or two more ticket sales over the coming weeks, it could make the difference. This is an opportunity for us to capitalize on the collaboration and teamwork we've been working so hard to improve throughout the company," said Emmett Fremaux, vice president, Marketing and Product Development.