

Amtrak Talking Points

Premise: *Amtrak has identified gaps in their service network that include large portions of Ohio, Texas, and Georgia. As part of the company's expansion to Ohio, Amtrak has selected Dayton to be one of the stops that's part of a new rail route connecting Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland. The proposed location will be in downtown Dayton. This new Amtrak connector is dependent on funding through a potential infrastructure package being considered by the federal government, as new rail routes are sought to boost the economy throughout the entire Great Lakes region.*

Why Dayton? Dayton's population density and its physical location make it a high priority to be included in this rail expansion. Amtrak has identified Dayton as an important connector not only to the 3C line, but to potential new growth to Detroit and Chicago. Data revealed city-to-city trips as the most popular type of trip in the Amtrak network. Dayton Increasing accessibility between Ohio's major metros can change how companies do business.

How will it impact the region? Education, medical, defense, technology and other sectors can all benefit from increasing access to and out of Dayton with quick, convenient transit options. It opens up Dayton up to new job prospects. Employers can select Dayton for its financial business advantages while maintaining easy access to larger metro areas, and workers can choose an affordable, high-quality place to live while quickly commuting to larger metro areas. The growing number of tech companies supporting defense industry and other commercialization projects can attract talent from places with higher cost of living. Hospitals can attract talent as well as have a convenient way to tap their larger statewide networks for more complex projects or research functions. Higher-education students and faculty can enjoy low cost of living and still be minutes away from major metros.

Who's on the team? The regional cooperative leading the charge to bring rail service to Dayton includes representation from the public and private sectors: the University of Dayton, Sinclair College, the City of Dayton, Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce, Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School, the Dayton Development Coalition, the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission, and the Downtown Dayton Partnership. These groups represent the myriad assets of the region's workforce development, educational institutions, public infrastructure, and residential communities.

Why downtown? At the center of our region, downtown is at the nexus of many different types of infrastructure. From downtown, one could rent a car (or hail a taxi or rideshare service) and hop on I-75, US 35, or other major routes to get to many different destinations in the region. Dayton International Airport is just 15 minutes from downtown. Travelers could use Greater Dayton RTA buses, including the free Flyer shuttle, to arrive at their final destination. Downtown is also home to several intersecting bikeway paths and has the highest concentration of Link Dayton Bike Share stations. Young adults and emerging professionals are voting with their feet, choosing to live in dense, urban areas with public transit options. With so many last-mile connectors in one, dense area, the location is an asset for the entire region.

Other features of this location? Downtown has a large concentration of single-site employers, and is just 15 minutes away from the largest single-site employer, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Since 2010, there has been nearly \$2 billion invested in downtown Dayton. The proposed

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Amtrak station will present easy access to regional assets, including Sinclair College, the University of Dayton, the Dayton Convention Center, performing arts venues, and emerging business incubators at The Arcade -- many of which are within walking distance from the station.

Quick hits:

- Dayton offers an important connector for Amtrak. The company expressed a gap in their service in Ohio that a line connecting Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland would fill, and a stop in Dayton is important for further expansion north and west.
- The proposed downtown location offers access to myriad other transit options, making the “last mile” between point of origin and destination more convenient.
- Comprehensive transit options address two important aspects for the higher education community: talent attraction and retention. Students and faculty can take advantage of Dayton’s low cost of living while enjoying convenient access to other major metros, and the region’s institutions of higher learning increase their reach to prospective students, researchers, partners, collaborators, and funders.
- Arts and entertainment venues downtown pull in tourists from many nearby cities and states, generating roughly \$214 million in economic activity. The Amtrak station could further enhance these tourist destinations.
- The community has built up the center city with nearly \$2 billion in public and private investments downtown, and it has transformed into a regional economic generator.
- Creating quick, convenient transit options opens Dayton up to new job prospects. Employers can select Dayton for its financial business advantages while maintaining easy access to larger metro areas, and workers can choose an affordable, high-quality place to live while quickly commuting to larger metro areas.
- Dayton’s affordable housing stock and wealth of impressive school systems offers a high quality of life for residents. Easy access to fast transit like Amtrak also makes the region more attractive to college graduates, helping the region retain its educated workforce.
- The proposed location complements adjacent investments, like the \$90 million Arcade renovation, as well as the community’s commitment to upgrade the Dayton Convention Center. The Amtrak station could be an asset to drawing new and larger conventions to the area, filling hotel rooms and boosting the local economy.

BY TOPIC

ACCESSIBILITY

- Rail options help people connect to other metros, as well as bring people *to* our region.
- Downtown Dayton sits at a nexus of many different transportation modes, including highways, major surface streets, bus routes, and recreational trails, in addition to a robust, walkable urban environment.
- Rail service complements other upgrades to infrastructure, and adds more modes for the “last mile” connecting people to jobs, consumer activities, and their homes.

EDUCATION

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- Students and faculty can take advantage of Dayton's low cost of living while enjoying convenient access to other major metros.
- The region's institutions of higher learning increase their reach to prospective students, researchers, partners, collaborators, and funders.
- Transit options complement local higher education institutions' recent investments to the region.

DEFENSE

- Rail service creates easy transit options between major metros for DOD operations.
- Quick, convenient transit helps attract talent for growing private-sector companies that support Dayton's defense network.
- Quick, convenient transit makes it easier for the DOD and private-sector companies to collaborate with entities in other major metros.

TOURISM

- Rail service supports travel to Dayton for tourism functions, such as performing arts venues, festivals, and baseball games. This fuels the billion-dollar economic impact tourism brings to the region.
- The community has committed to making investments in the Dayton Convention Center. Rail service complements this work, increasing accessibility to help attract new and larger events.

REGIONAL ECONOMY

- Increasing consumer access to Dayton broadens the economic impact of tourism.
- Increasing transit options for Dayton residents allows them to visit larger metros while maintaining a low cost of living, helping businesses retain their workforce.
- Increasing accessibility to a larger, diverse talent pool from other major metros can help companies attract new talent needed to grow their businesses.
- Attracting students, faculty, and researchers to Dayton can increase the economic output from regional institutions of higher learning.

TALENT ATTRACTION/RETENTION

- College graduates and other young professionals are choosing to live in dense, urban areas and desire access to public transportation options, like RTA buses (including the free Flyer) and the rail system.
- City-to-city travel enables young professionals to plant roots in an affordable community like Dayton, without sacrificing their ability to enjoy other major metros.
- Young professionals can expand their professional networks with quick, convenient rail service to major metropolitan areas around the region.

DOWNTOWN

- An Amtrak station would complement the nearly \$2 billion invested in downtown over the past decade.
- Quick, convenient rail service would increase access to educational institutions Sinclair, UD, and CJ.

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- Downtown's concentration of performing arts venues already attract diverse audiences from hundreds of miles away. Rail service would enable these patrons to attend more frequently, potentially increasing the already significant \$214 million estimated economic impact the arts bring to the community.
- The Dayton region has decided to invest in its Convention Center, and adding easy transit via rail would be a boon to attracting new and larger groups.
- Downtown is already a nexus of multi-modal transit options. Adding fast rail service would increase downtown's leverage to attract companies to invest in bringing their businesses -- and jobs -- to Dayton.