

Press Release

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Tampa Union Station remains popular with rail passengers – ridership is up 13% – now ranked second busiest Amtrak train station in Florida

TAMPA, FL (December 22, 2023) – Nonprofit group Friends of Tampa Union Station announced today that historic Tampa Union Station was Amtrak’s second busiest station in Florida by ridership on the route of Amtrak’s New York-Florida *Silver Service* trains, with ridership up 13% over the previous year. Tampa’s station is also the second busiest Amtrak train station on the entire route that connects the station to NYC and Miami twice daily via the *Silver Star*.

According to figures from Amtrak, 129,036 passengers boarded and alighted Amtrak trains at Tampa Union Station in Amtrak’s FY 2023, which runs from October 2022 through September 2023. This was the second highest of any station in Florida served by Amtrak’s *Silver Service* trains, bested only by Orlando, which was slightly higher. In addition, Tampa was the second busiest stop of any of the stations along the New York-Florida route of the *Silver Star*. Of all Amtrak services serving Florida, only Orlando and *Auto Train*’s busy terminus station in Sanford counted more passengers.

“We’re really pleased to see the growing ridership at Tampa Union Station,” said Brandie Miklus, Friends of Tampa Union Station’s President and a volunteer. “These strong performance figures, which represent a 13% increase in Amtrak ridership at Tampa compared to last year, are consistent with the crowds we’ve seen in the waiting room and on the platforms at Tampa Union Station.”

Tampa Union Station, a Downtown Tampa landmark constructed in 1912, will be renovated beginning next year with dollars provided by Tampa’s Downtown Community Redevelopment Agency, the City of Tampa, and a State of Florida Special Category Historic Preservation Grant.

The volunteers of not-for-profit group Friends of Tampa Union Station work to raise funds and awareness for the historic structure. The organization also hosts Tampa Train Day at Tampa Union Station every May and completed renovations to the historic Baggage Building at the station in November of last year.

“Tampa Union Station’s relevance as a transportation, cultural, and community asset cannot be overstated,” said Miklus. “While we celebrate this milestone, we look forward to seeing increasing Amtrak ridership at Tampa Union Station in the future.”

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