

# Media Advisory



FOR PLANNING PURPOSES  
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Contact: Marc Magliari  
312 544.5390

## AMTRAK PRESIDENT & CEO MAKES “WHISTLE-STOPS” THIS WEEK AT *SOUTHWEST CHIEF* CITIES Railroad, state and local officials on inspection train in Kansas & Colorado

Joe Boardman, Amtrak President & CEO, will ride a special train this Thursday from Topeka, Kan., to La Junta, Colo. He will meet with state and local officials and inspect the progress being made to preserve the route for the Amtrak *Southwest Chief* passenger train and improve BNSF freight service. Also aboard the train through Lamar, Colo., will be BNSF Railway Executive Chairman Matt Rose. Among others joining the tour will be Interim Kansas Transportation Secretary Richard Carlson, who will be riding from Topeka to La Junta.

There will be brief media availabilities at each stop this Thursday. **All times are approximate since this is not a regularly scheduled train.** Kansas stops are in Central Time and Colorado stops are in Mountain Time. Media is advised to arrive 15-20 minutes before the departure times.

### Kansas-Colorado Schedule, Thursday, August 4:

Depart Topeka at 7:00 a.m.  
Depart Newton at 9:30 a.m.  
Depart Hutchinson at 10:15 a.m.  
Depart Dodge City at 12:45 p.m.  
Depart Garden City at 1:55 p.m.  
Depart Lamar at 2:45 p.m.  
Arrive La Junta at 4:05 p.m.

### Background:

Successful grant applications led by [Garden City, Kan.](#), and [La Junta, Colo.](#), have resulted in \$27.6 million in federal TIGER funding in the past two years. State support and contributions from Amtrak (\$8 million), BNSF (\$4 million) and other communities has led to the replacement of jointed rails and ties nearing the end of their service between Hutchinson, Kan., and Waldo, New Mexico. Additionally, BNSF has agreed to maintain the track at a maximum speed of 79 mph for Amtrak and 60 mph for freight trains where the bolted rail has been replaced. The replacement rail has come from a plant in Pueblo, Colo., installed and maintained by BNSF. More grant applications are expected in coming years.

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NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

Chicago Union Station, 500 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60661-5702 tel 312 544.5390 fax 202 799.NEWS MediaRelationsChicago@Amtrak.com