

Our New Seating Arrangement: *Fixed Forward and Backward Seating*



Summary

As of March 2, 2024, all Northeast Corridor (NEC) trains are transitioning to permanent fixed forward and backward seating – including all *Northeast Regional* service and select routes on the East Coast (the *Carolinian*, *Empire Service*, *Vermont* and *Amtrak Virginia*). This arrangement enhances services for customers on the NEC with more frequencies by reducing the time required in between trips.

What is Fixed Seating?

Fixed forward and backward seating is when approximately half the seats on a train are facing the direction of travel and half positioned in the opposite direction. This offers customers the option to choose the direction in which they're most comfortable facing. Most customers say they are comfortable traveling backward and it makes no difference to their onboard experience.

Amtrak routes with fixed seating already in place:

- *Amtrak Cascades*
- *Amtrak Downeaster*
- *Ethan Allen Express*
- *Keystone Service*
- *Hiawatha*
- *Illini and Saluki*
- *River Runner*
- *Springfield Shuttles*
- *Wolverine*

What's Ahead

Two of Amtrak's upcoming fleets – our new [Acela](#) and [Amtrak Airo™](#) trainsets, will also feature fixed seating. The current *Acela* fleet will transition to fixed forward and backward seating later this year.

Prioritizing Your Comfort

Customers who have a strong preference for a forward-facing seat, and are having a hard time finding one, should speak with their conductor to help them find any available forward-facing seats on the train. Forward-facing seats are available on a first-come basis and are not guaranteed.



Business Class Seat Selection

Business Class customers have the option to change their assigned seat (subject to availability) when traveling aboard *Northeast Regional*, *Carolinian*, *Vermont* and *Amtrak Virginia*. In addition to [Business Class amenities](#), there is assigned seating with various seat choices before boarding - including fixed forward options. After checkout, Business Class customers may change their seat assignment on [Amtrak.com](#) or the [Amtrak app](#).