

July 19, 2021 Amtrak Reopening

- Amtrak is resuming trains after a 15 month hiatus caused by the pandemic
 - o Riders are still required to wear facial coverings and abide by other health precautions
- There are two train lines that run in the Green Mountain state
 - o Vermonter: runs through St. Albans and Essex Junction
 - Amtrak's Vermonter train runs between Washington, DC, and St Albans. Its other Vermont stops are Brattleboro, Bellows Falls, Windsor, White River Junction, Randolph, Montpelier, Waterbury and Essex Junction, in addition to a Claremont Junction, N.H., stop that serves the Ascutney area. The Ethan Allen Express operates between New York City and Rutland, with a stop in Castleton. Plans call for that service to be extended north to Burlington late this year or early in 2022, with intermediate stops serving Middlebury and Vergennes.
 - o Ethan Allen Express: Rutland and Brattleboro
- Has been running for 50 years
- Saint Albans Station:
 - o Opened: September 29, 1972
 - o Closed: September 6, 1966
 - o Rebuilt: June 1867

Quick stats:

98,168 passengers on the Vermonter in 2019 (via <https://trainsinthevalley.org/vermonter-data/>)

**Points to make:

- Amtrak is crucial to the college student population of Vermont. Many students in New England find that Amtrak is the most efficient and affordable way to travel home on break, and entices them to choose UVM/Middlebury/Champlain Colleges, located in towns that the trains pass through
- Tie to workforce development: the trains travelling through many Vermont towns ease the burden of transportation insecurity and allow for people to choose jobs that they would have otherwise not