

**NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION**

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**Stephen J. Gardner**  
Executive Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer

December 24, 2018

The Honorable John A. Lawrence  
Pennsylvania House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 202013  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

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2018 JAN -2 PM 4: 18  
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OFFICE OF CLERK

Dear State Representative Lawrence:

Thank you for your letter to Mr. Anderson of December 13, regarding preservation of the old passenger information display located above the information desk, at the center of the passenger concourse area of the William H. Gray III 30th Street Station in Philadelphia. I am responding on Mr. Anderson's behalf. Your letter came shortly after a December 10 telephone conversation between Mr. Anderson and U.S. Representative Brendan F. Boyle. Mr. Anderson appreciated the opportunity to discuss our plans with Representative Boyle.

The old display board, also called a Solari board, after its manufacturer, is becoming more difficult to maintain and operate, due to lack of parts and outdated software. Additionally, the Solari board lacks the ability meet the Passenger Information Display System (PIDS) requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Therefore, we announced on November 30 that we would be replacing the Solari board with new, digital PIDS hardware and related software. It will be integrated with the smaller displays at each gate, achieve ADA compliance, and provide customers at the station with a more modern information interface. For example, the new PIDS system will allow for important messages and boarding announcements to be posted on the main board and gate boards, and read over loudspeakers, simultaneously and identically. We are continuing with our plans to replace the old board with a new one in January 2019. I am enclosing a copy of our announcement, as information.

Recognizing that many people feel a sentimental connection with the Solari board, we have committed to preserving it. We are working to identify a master developer for the station, and we will work with the developer, at the appropriate time, to see if there is a use for the Solari board in any aspect of the redevelopment effort. The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania has agreed to safeguard the Solari board. I am also enclosing a November 20 announcement about the redevelopment effort.

Amtrak is working closely with Representative Boyle's office to convene a meeting with external stakeholders, including the local historic preservation groups and the disability community, to hear their concerns related to the Solari board. We are happy to host this meeting and will work with his office to schedule it as soon as possible.



*The Honorable John A. Lawrence*

*December 24, 2018*

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Thank you again for your interest in and support of passenger experience and intercity passenger rail service in Philadelphia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Gardner", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Stephen J. Gardner**

*Senior Executive Vice President,*

*Commercial, Marketing, and Strategy*

cc: Richard H. Anderson

Enclosures



# NEWSRELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 30, 2018

## **Amtrak to Install New, State-of-the-Art Digital Board at William H. Gray III 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station as Part of Station Modern Makeover**

*Will replace the current Solari Board in early 2019*

PHILADELPHIA – Amtrak is set to replace its current Solari board at William H. Gray III 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station in Philadelphia (PHL) with a new, digital Passenger Information Display System (PIDS) that will help further its efforts to modernize the station. As part of the project, Amtrak is also replacing the display boards at each gate, the software that runs the displays, as well as the public address system and the platform displays all of which will now be ADA compliant.

“The new, digital and state-of-the-art PIDS board that will take its place allows us to have a more modern and tech-friendly station with an ADA compliant display board,” said Amtrak VP of Passenger Accessibility David Handera.

The project will start in December by upgrading the boards at each gate, with the removal of the current Solari board taking place in January. The new PIDS board, which will display gate and track information and have ADA features, is expected to come online at the end of the month. Once the new PIDS board is in place and operational, Amtrak will then finish its work by upgrading the rest of its display boards in ClubAcela Lounge, the food court, on the platforms and in other areas of the station.

The upgrade of the PIDS board at PHL comes on the heels of Amtrak already replacing PIDS across its national network in an effort to modernize its stations, meet the ADA guidelines and improve the customer experience. Amtrak is also in the midst of a larger, station refresh initiative at PHL, which includes upgrading the Amtrak ClubAcela Lounge, a recently installed a lactation suite to provide mothers with a clean, dignified and private space to pump and nurse at 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station, and the retrofitting of eight of the moveable wooden waiting benches on with power outlets for portable and mobile devices.

Amtrak operates approximately 120 daily trains in the state of Pennsylvania, with more than 4.4 million riders traveling in and out of PHL during its 2018 Fiscal Year, making it the third busiest station in the national Amtrak system.

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Amtrak offers a more comfortable and convenient travel experience with free Wi-Fi on most trains, plenty of leg room and no middle seat. With our state and commuter partners, we move people, the economy and the nation forward.



carrying more than 30 million Amtrak customers for each of the past seven years. Amtrak operates more than 300 trains daily, connecting more than 500 destinations in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces, and reaches 400 additional destinations via connecting bus routes. Book travel, check train status, access your eTicket and more through an [Amtrak app](#). Learn more at [Amtrak.com](#).

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ATK-18-071



# NEWSRELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 20, 2018

## **Amtrak Narrows Search for Master Developer for William H. Gray III 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station** *Four teams selected for consideration*

PHILADELPHIA – As part of the ongoing work to enhance the customer experience at the William H. Gray III 30th Street Station, Amtrak narrowed the list to four teams that will compete to be selected as Master Developer to update the historic station.

Several firms responded to a Request for Qualification (RFQ), and those who are on the list are the following, in alphabetical order:

- Brandywine Realty Trust: Brandywine, Pelli Clarke, Pelli Architects, WSP, CBRE
- G30 Collaborative: Meridiam, Gensler, Gannett Fleming, Turner Construction, Aramark, MarketPlace, WeWork
- PHL 30 Vision LLC: JLL, FXCollaborative, AKF, Pennoni, ARUP, Jingoli, JLL
- Plenary Infrastructure PHL: Plenary, SOM, Pennoni, Arora, Urban, AKRF, Gilbane Building, Johnson Controls, Vantage, Republic

The announcement of the four teams is part of the process that will result in the selection of a preferred developer who will assist in: introducing new customer amenities, reinvigorating the retail and commercial potential of the station, enhancing transit and pedestrian traffic flow and expanding the station's concourses to accommodate anticipated increases in ridership.

"The selection of the four teams is a milestone, as it represents the next step in realizing the future vision of the William H. Gray III 30th Street Station," Amtrak Senior Program Manager Natalie Shieh said. "By partnering with the right development team, Amtrak will update this world-class transportation hub for the traveling public and Philadelphia."

The nearly 100-year-old facility is the third busiest station in Amtrak's national system, serving more than 4 million Amtrak customers and more than 12 million combined SEPTA and NJ TRANSIT rail commuters annually. Amtrak recently made capital investments at the William H. Gray III 30<sup>th</sup> Street Station totaling more than \$100 million, including the current refurbishment of the building facade, improvements to the public restrooms, replacement of the customer elevators and escalators, and restoration of the historic bronze entrance doors.

More>>>



The next step in the process will be a Request for Proposals from the four teams, with a Master Developer decision by Amtrak in 2019.

Learn more about these and many other infrastructure investments that Amtrak is leading at [nec.amtrak.com](http://nec.amtrak.com).

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