

## Area Firm Wins Statewide Contract

A State College company will be helping to improve operations and customer service for public transit systems across the Commonwealth. PennDOT selected Avail Technologies through a nationwide competitive procurement to implement a Fixed Route Intelligent Transportation System for 32 transit systems. Amtran, which has already deployed much of Avail's technology, will receive upgrades and new features for customers and for staff. The technology will provide real-time service information for customers (myStop), flexible fare payment options - including fare cards that can be used on any participating transit system in the state (myFare), and improved transit planning. "Avail is thrilled to be working with PennDOT and our state public transit

providers to deploy the nation's first statewide Fixed Route Intelligent Transportation System solution which will create a common technology platform across all agencies to facilitate new operational standards and a level of operational data analysis that has never been seen before," according to Avail President and CEO Dorsey Houtz. "This project will be watched very closely by other states, and Avail is pleased to be on the team that will make PA the nation's shining star of technology adoption in fixed route transit." The \$36 million, five-year project is underway with installation expected to take place over three years. Avail, which develops technological products for many aspects of the transportation industry, currently employs 92 people, including 81 at its

State College headquarters. In addition to customer service improvements, the technology will assist transit systems in monitoring their vehicles' condition, automatically count passengers boarding and leaving vehicles, and create a statewide reporting database for transit agencies and for PennDOT. "The way that people use and interact with transportation services is changing, and that includes public transportation," said a PennDOT spokesman. "Better data and technology ultimately improves efficiency and meets customer needs."



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Natural Gas Buses ... arrive at Amtran  
In This Issue

Altoona, PA

## Compressed Natural Gas Buses for Amtran



Amtran is moving to Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) with six new buses entering service in June with another ten new CNG buses arriving in October.

### Statewide Public-Private Partnership

The project in Altoona is part of PennDOT's statewide Compressed Natural Gas Public-Private Partnership (P3) project.

Through this \$84.5 million project, Trillium, the private sector firm chosen by competitive procurement, will design, build, finance, operate, and maintain CNG fueling stations at 29 public transit agency sites (including Amtran) through a 20-year P3 agreement.

Stations will be constructed over the next four years with PennDOT also making CNG-related upgrades to existing maintenance facilities.

### The Altoona Project

At Amtran, there is a fueling station along with upgrades to the maintenance building to accommodate

CNG buses. (There will not be a public fueling option at Amtran at this time, but that could change in the future.) The fueling station and garage modifications were completed earlier this year. Locally, The EADS Group is working with Amtran and Trillium.

The bus purchase is part of a statewide procurement consortium. The six CNG buses were built at American bus manufacturer Gillig's all-new plant in northern California at a total cost of \$3 million. The next ten new buses will arrive this fall. The funding comes from PennDOT and the Federal Transit Administration.

### Fuel Savings

PennDOT expects transit agencies to see significant savings due to the project. Based on current CNG, diesel, and gasoline prices as well as fuel usage, agencies could save more than \$10 million annually statewide. After 10 years, the department estimates that the project will pay for itself with the estimated \$100 million in savings.



my<sup>®</sup>

## Smart Phone App

Amtran's myStop smart phone app is a free download for iOS and Android devices. Search "myStop" at your app store and look for the logo above.

### *Trip Planning & Real-Time Bus Departures*

Using the app, you can plan your trip through Google Maps. You can also find out when your bus will be at your stop in real time. In addition, you can set an alert to remind you when the bus will arrive. The app was developed by Amtran's tech partner, Avail Technologies in State College.

## But I don't have a Smart Phone...

Lots of people don't have a smart phone. That's okay. Amtran has you covered.

You can use any phone (mobile or landline) to get real-time information for any stop in the Amtran system. Just call 944-1200 and punch in your bus stop number. The computer will give you the information that you need. If you have an older cell phone and can text, just text "AT" and your bus stop number to 321123. For example, the bus stop at Walmart is #314, so text AT314 to 321123 to get real-time bus arrivals.

And of course, if you want to talk to a real person, just call Amtran's **Helpline** at 944-4074 Monday through Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.



Amtran's myFare smart card is quick, safe, and convenient. Get yours today!

**Quick** – Just tap your myFare on the card reader as you board, and you're ready to go.

**Convenient** – No more worries about exact change. And you can check your balance anytime by phone (944-1200).

**Safe** – If you register your card at Amtran, we can replace it if it's lost. Plus if you register, you'll be automatically entered in our Loyalty Reward Program. To register your card, just stop by Amtran (next to Mansion Park) Monday through Saturday, 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Ask your friendly Amtran driver about myFare today. It's free with a \$5.00 minimum purchase!

## Starts at 6 a.m.



**The early bird catches the bus!**

### *Early & Late Bus Service*

Did you know that Amtran runs bus service as early as 6:00 a.m. and as late as 10:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday?

**#11 Early Bird** starts at the Transit Center at 6:00 a.m. and connects to Logan Valley Mall to the Wye Switches to Juniata and the VA Hospital.

### *Late Bus Service*

**#12 Night Owl** starts at the Transit Center at 6:00 p.m. and connects to Lloyd Street to Logan Town Centre to Pleasant Valley Shopping Center to Logan Valley Mall to Walmart and back to downtown with four hourly trips beginning at 6:00 p.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m.

**#14 Evening Flash** connects Penn State Altoona and Fairview to Martin's Chestnut Avenue to Altoona Hospital to downtown Altoona with five hourly trips beginning at 5:00 p.m. and ending at 10:20 p.m.

Pick up a schedule on the bus, or visit our website at [www.amtran.org](http://www.amtran.org).

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## SUMMER YOUTH PASS

\$1/DAY FOR AN ALL DAY PASS | June 2 - August 25, 2018

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The Meadows | Juniata Spray Park | Prospect Pool | Blair County Ballpark



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