

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Erik Filkorn, VTrans
(802) 498-5988

Philip Tortora, Tourism and Marketing
(802) 522-7323

Amtrak to offer carry-on bike service on the *Vermont*

MONTPELIER, Vt. –April 29, 2016--The Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans) and the Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing are pleased to announce that Amtrak will offer carry-on bike service on the *Vermont* beginning May 1, between St. Albans and Washington, DC. Transportation Secretary Chris Cole, Tourism and Marketing Commissioner Megan Smith and Local Motion Executive Director Emily Boedecker offered a preview of the service at an event held at the Amtrak station in Essex and on-board the southbound *Vermont* today.

“We have been working for many years with our partners at Amtrak to develop this new service that will benefit visitors and Vermonters alike,” said Transportation Secretary Chris Cole. “Developing convenient connections between transportation modes is essential to the success of our system and this is an important first step in providing better access to Vermont’s transportation network. We appreciate how responsive Amtrak has been to our needs and look forward to even more service improvements in the coming years.”

“We see so many ways that this new Amtrak carry-on bike service will provide travelers and tourists in Vermont a fantastic new way to explore the communities which reside along or near the *Vermont* route,” said Tourism Commissioner Megan Smith of the train service that also makes Vermont stops in Waterbury, Montpelier-Berlin, Randolph, White River Junction, Windsor, Bellows Falls, and Brattleboro.

“We are anticipating tremendous demand for this service in Vermont,” said Local Motion Executive Director, Emily Boedecker. “The cycling community is enthusiastic and engaged and we look forward to helping to ensure success of this pilot and the further growth as more travelers discover our scenic rural roads, world class rail trails and mountain bike resorts.”

Amtrak partnered with the VTrans, Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing, Adventure Cycling Association, and other bicycle and passenger rail groups to form an advisory bicycle task force to oversee this project. The service pilot is scheduled to run for the next two seasons as work continues to further enhance bicycle access on-board.

Tickets for carry-on bike service will be available starting today, for travel beginning on May 1. The *Vermont* operates daily between Washington, D.C., and St. Albans, Vt., with service to Philadelphia, New York City, Hartford, Conn., Springfield, Mass., Essex Junction, Vt., and other intermediate stops.

Capacity is limited, reservations are required and customers must have a ticket for their bikes. The bicycle reservation fee is \$20 for service between Washington D.C., and New Haven, Conn., and \$10 for service between New Haven, Conn., and St Albans, Vt. Passengers should select “add bike” when they book their train travel on Amtrak.com, or by calling 800-USA-RAIL.

For more information on the *Vermont*’s service to access Vermont’s downtown, please visit VermontVacation.com/Amtrak.