

Project Description

Train Station

The City of Johnstown was awarded a \$24.4 million Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) in November 2021. The amount of \$11.2 million is allotted to the Train Station Project. The Train Station is located at 47 Walnut Street, Johnstown, PA 15901 in Cambria County. See attached for a Topographic Map and an Aerial Map.

The Train Station is considered a key component of Heritage Tourism for the City of Johnstown but has fallen into a state of disrepair in the last few decades. Erected in 1915-1916, the Train Station is Eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Train Station is owned by the Johnstown Area Heritage Association (JAHA), and the Artist-Blacksmith's Association of North America (ABANA) have a long-term lease to use the waiting room. Amtrak occupies the concourse with ticket office rent-free, for use by Amtrak passengers. The concourse is separated from the waiting room via a wall of glass panels. In the station building deed, Amtrak has a perpetual easement that requires the station building owner to provide 1,500 square feet for use as a ticket office as well as 25 parking spots (*Johnstown Station Assessment Report – FINAL*, HNTB, 1/8/21). Additionally, Amtrak receives income from a billboard lease with Lamar, so billboard removal (if proposed) would need to be discussed with Amtrak's Real Estate Office. The Baggage Building and West Baggage Addition are currently rented for storage. The Train Station serves the Amtrak Pennsylvanian train, one train in each direction, once a day, with service at 18,848 in 2019 with \$922,581 in revenue (*Johnstown Station Assessment Report – FINAL*, HNTB, 1/8/21). The facility also serves as a stop for CamTran buses and for Greyhound buses. JAHA has consented to Greyhound's request to use the concourse, although Greyhound has not yet provided any specific information or agreement.

In broad strokes, this RAISE grant funding will be utilized to:

1. Demolish the West Baggage Addition, which has partially detached from the Baggage Building.
Install a ramp, loading dock, and parking in its place.
2. Improve the existing parking lots on either side of the buildings.
3. Replace the HVAC system.
4. Rehabilitate the first floor (excluding the concourse) so that it is available for potential future multi-use opportunities.
5. Rehabilitate the second floor for potential future multi-use opportunities, pending results of condition assessment and contractor pricing.

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Specifically, improvements may include the construction of new circulation ramps, reconstruction of two sets of stairs, HVAC upgrades, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) restroom upgrades, window upgrades, fireproofing, signage, and entry door upgrades in the Train Station Building and connected Baggage Building, along with parking lot improvements. The condition assessment conducted in 2021 identified a priority need for safety, structural, and weatherization upgrades to the Station including construction to repair roof trusses; reset cornice stones; repair exterior brick and limestone; repair/replace clearstory windows; repair a cracked wall and beam in the Baggage Building; demolish the West Baggage Addition and replace with ramp/loading dock/parking; and replace the Baggage Building roof. Next, there are priority upgrades needed for exterior and interior restoration and historic preservation, including construction to repair/replace/restore exterior doors and windows; interior structural repairs including beam delamination and concrete spalls; and interior masonry and restoration to main waiting room and concourse. In addition, the condition assessment from 2021 recommends state of good repair improvements including installation of a limited use/limited access elevator with generator for backup power; new egress stairs; mechanical, electrical, plumbing and utilities upgrades; and asbestos and lead paint abatement. There are preliminary engineering plans available for these station upgrades, and construction cost estimates of \$9,813,867 plus an additional \$1,467,444 in final engineering, permitting, and other preconstruction costs. These total costs of \$11,281,411 are a key portion of Johnstown's RAISE award. Details about existing conditions, recommended improvements, and costing are available in *Johnstown Station Assessment Report – FINAL* (HNTB, 1/8/21).

JAHA is hoping to construct these improvements in 2025 and to open to the public in 2026.

Various projects have been implemented since JAHA took ownership in 2010. In 2016 the lower roof and concourse ceiling were replaced in the Train Station Building as a separate project with separate funding. Likewise, in 2018 Amtrak completed ADA renovations to the parking lot, concourse and pedestrian tunnel, ticket office, and passenger restrooms as a separate project with separate funding. In 2023 Amtrak will begin construction of a \$16.25M project to raise the station platforms; erect platform enclosures; improve the passenger, baggage, and utility tunnels between the Train Station Building and the platforms; and construct an underground detention basin in the JAHA parking lot again as a separate project with separate funding. Amtrak has rights to access the Freight Depot during platform construction and to use the parking area in front of the Depot as a materials lay-down yard.