

More Amtrak stops coming to Coatesville Train Station

By Staff Report

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In anticipation of the new Coatesville Train Station, more trains will be coming to the steel city beginning this October.

State Sen. Andy Dinniman and PennDOT announced that Amtrak will add two additional stops at the Coatesville Train Station as part of a series of updates and improvements to its Keystone Service line that runs between Harrisburg and Philadelphia.

The westbound 641 and 643 trains, departing from Philadelphia's 30th Street Station at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. respectively will stop in Coatesville at 9:41 a.m. and 11:41 a.m.

The changes, which are scheduled to take effect Oct. 5, will also result in improved and expanded service to New York City, through Philadelphia.

Dinniman said the increased stops are part of his growing effort to increase ridership and restore more frequent rail service to Coatesville – an effort that goes hand-in-hand with plans to redesign and rebuild the Coatesville Train Station.

“More train stops in Coatesville mean more visitors and more opportunities for economic investment and job growth,” Dinniman said. “Coatesville has endless potential for revitalization and economic growth and that potential is directly tied to the construction of the new train station and the development of the surrounding area as the entrance to the downtown business district.”

Plans for the new station call for a dual-purpose building featuring a waiting and ticketing area, as well as a career education and entrepreneurial center. It is slated for the 300 block of Fleetwood Street where an entire block of row homes were destroyed by arson fire in 2008.

In addition, the project is tied to a larger effort to revitalize the city, beginning with significant streetscape improvements to Third Avenue as the station's “gateway” to the downtown. Dinniman said he expects construction to begin on the Third Avenue Streetscape project within the year.

Dinniman said his next goal is to restore SEPTA service to Coatesville.

“In years past, SEPTA service to Coatesville has been decreased largely due to the need for trains to travel almost all the way to Lancaster to turn around,” Dinniman said. “However, recent infrastructure improvements have eliminated that impediment and I am confident that if we all work together we can succeed in restoring SEPTA service to the city of Coatesville, as well as Parkesburg, going forward.”

For more information contact Senator Dinniman's district office at 610-692-2112 or e-mail acirucci@pasenate.com.

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