

## Groundbreaking at Paoli Train Station



Transportation and government officials, all of whom spoke earlier in the ceremony, performing the groundbreaking. From left: Thomas F. Moritz, Amtrak Senior Director of Business Development; Michelle Kichline, Chair of the Chester County Board of Commissioners; Toby Fauver, PennDOT Deputy Secretary for Multimodal Transportation; PA State Senator Andy Dinniman (D-19); Reaves “Trip” Lukens, Tredyffrin Board of Supervisors Chairman; Jeffrey Knueppel, P.E., SEPTA General Manager; Joe McHugh, Amtrak Vice President State Supported Services Business Development; and Theresa Garcia Crews, Federal Transit Administration Regional Administrator for Region 3.



After decades of discussion, planning, and dedicated effort by many people, a small group of transportation and government officials gathered with a spirit that combined enthusiasm and a sense of accomplishment on Tuesday February 28, 2017, at a long-anticipated groundbreaking ceremony for the new Paoli Station Accessibility Improvements Project, a \$36 million initiative intended to improve accessibility and safety, and provide increased operational flexibility at the Paoli Train Station.

Approximately 201,500 Amtrak passengers and 740,000 SEPTA (Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority) passengers are reported as having passed through the station in 2016. The current station facilities, including the one-story brick station building built in 1953 by the Pennsylvania Railroad, do not meet current accessibility standards. Funded by a SEPTA and Amtrak partnership, this project aims to bring them into compliance with the 2006 U.S. Dept. of Transportation ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Standards, making the station fully accessible for all passengers.

Amtrak has contracted with Neshaminy Constructors Inc., of Feasterville, PA for a series of station improvements including a new high-level center island platform, new elevators and ramps, a pedestrian overpass, parking lot improvements, ADA upgrades to the existing station building, and changes to the railroad infrastructure that allow for construction of the new center platform.

Expected to take two years, once complete, this project will set the stage for potential further construction of the proposed Paoli Intermodal Transportation Center, envisioned to serve the growing needs of the traveling public, and support the Paoli business district and future economic growth in the area.

— John O. Senior. Portions adapted from Amtrak/SEPTA media support materials.

Views of the existing and proposed station complex, on this and facing page: Photos © 2017 John O. Senior, Architectural renderings of proposed structures courtesy of Amtrak/SEPTA.



