



# NOTICE

## **A Message for Paoli/Thorndale & Wilmington/Newark Riders Service Delays – Monday, June 7, 2021**

Yesterday morning (06.07), weather and heat related conditions on Amtrak right of way created significant service problems on the Paoli/Thorndale and Wilmington/Newark Regional Rail Lines that caused travel delays and train cancellations – some lasting throughout the day and into the evening.

The issues began, at the height of AM travel (8:31 a.m.) on the Paoli Line when a tree fell across two of the tracks bringing down the catenary and signal system wires at Exton Station. This forced us to suspend service between Malvern and Thorndale. Shuttle buses were dispatched for select trains but overall, SEPTA was unable to serve the stations between Malvern and Thorndale yesterday.

Amtrak forces worked throughout the day to remove the tree and repair the wires and Paoli/Thorndale service between Malvern and Thorndale resumed at approximately 4:15 p.m. Unfortunately, this relief was short lived. During the course of the day, the heat caused the wires to sag and when the first train from Center City, heading towards Thorndale, neared Paoli it pulled the wires down at 4:47 p.m. This forced us to again suspend service – this time between Paoli and Thorndale. To make matters worse, Amtrak then experienced a switch failure at Paoli, effectively shutting down rail service through the end the day.

Service on the Paoli/Thorndale Line resumed this morning with residual travel delays of 15-20 minutes as Amtrak continues to make needed repairs.

In a separate incident, PM service on the Wilmington/Newark Line was impacted when Amtrak reported a major kink in the rail on Track 2 at Marcus Hook at 4:00 p.m. As Wilmington riders already know, Amtrak is in the middle of major track improvement work and one track is currently out of service for this project. The kink in the rail, closed a second track and created operational issues for SEPTA trains at Marcus Hook. As a result, SEPTA was forced to begin single track service between Penn Medicine and Marcus Hook Stations, which caused service delays between 30 and 60 minutes.

With Regional Rail currently following COVID-19 schedules with trains operating at 30-60 minute intervals, these delays, especially in the heat, created uncomfortable and inconvenient travel for customers – many of whom are just returning to regular travel on SEPTA. We continue to work with Amtrak try and improve response time when incidents on their right of way cause delays for SEPTA customers.



***Kinked Rail on Wilmington/Newark Line  
06/07/21***



***Downed Tree on Paoli/Thorndale Line  
06/07/21***