



## Union Pacific's Big Boy to Tour the Northeast for First Time in Honor of America's 250th Anniversary

April 28, 2026

Eastern leg of historic coast-to-coast tour brings Big Boy onto Norfolk Southern tracks with more than 50 whistle-stops and display days across eight cities

OMAHA, Neb.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Apr. 28, 2026-- Union Pacific's famed Big Boy No. 4014, the world's largest operating steam locomotive, will journey to the East Coast for the first time in collaboration with Norfolk Southern, as part of a historic coast-to-coast tour as both railroads celebrate America's 250th anniversary. The tour includes a Fourth of July celebration in Philadelphia, major display events in eight cities and more than 50 whistle-stops in 10 states, including stops for the first time in Indiana, Ohio, New York and Pennsylvania.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20260428506229/en/>



Union Pacific's Big Boy No. 4014, the world's largest operating steam locomotive

This is the first time Big Boy has steamed across the Mississippi River and into the Ohio Valley since it was built in Schenectady, New York, and delivered to Union Pacific Railroad in

1941. As Big Boy makes this highly-anticipated journey, the eastern portion of the tour will operate across the Norfolk Southern network, marking a historic collaboration between two of the nation's storied railroads and bringing the legendary locomotive back to communities that helped power America's industrial rise.

"Union Pacific couldn't be prouder to share this powerful piece of history with the nation and to be a part of America's birthday celebration," said Union Pacific CEO Jim Vena. "This tour celebrates our company's rich 164-year history, our nation's amazing story and the people who have helped build our great country and our railroad."

"Railroads helped build this nation by connecting people, communities and commerce – work carried forward for generations by dedicated railroaders," said Norfolk Southern President and CEO Mark George. "As the United States approaches its 250th anniversary, Union Pacific's Big Boy's return to the East on Norfolk Southern rails reflects a shared legacy."

The eastern leg of the tour starts May 25 from Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Big Boy officially launched its 2026 coast-to-coast tour on April 10 from downtown Sacramento near historic Milepost 0 – the site where Central Pacific began construction on the nation's first transcontinental railroad in 1863.

The route through the Ohio Valley, Pennsylvania and the Northeast reflects the historic role railroads played in shaping America's economic heartland, connecting factories, ports and population centers and fueling the nation's growth across generations. For nearly 200 years, Norfolk Southern and its predecessor railroads have served these corridors, helping move the people and goods that built the modern United States.

The eight major public display events are:

- May 30 – **Omaha, Nebraska** (home of Union Pacific's headquarters)
- June 3 – **West Chicago, Illinois**
- June 10 – **Buffalo, New York**
- June 15-16 – **Scranton, Pennsylvania**
- July 4-5 – **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**
- July 9-10 – **Altoona, Pennsylvania**
- July 14 – **Fostoria, Ohio**
- July 19 – **St. Louis, Missouri**

Big Boy will be accompanied on the trip by several historical passenger cars from Union Pacific's Heritage Fleet, along with two commemorative locomotives:

- **No. 1616** Abraham Lincoln locomotive, which commemorates the country's 16<sup>th</sup> president and Union Pacific's founder,
- **No. 1776** – America250, which features the emblem of the America250 Semiquincentennial Commission, the national

nonpartisan organization established by Congress to lead the nation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

On the eastern leg of the trip, Big Boy will be accompanied by Norfolk Southern commemorative locomotives as well as a historical passenger car from Norfolk Southern's Heritage Fleet. The coast to coast tour highlights the histories of Union Pacific in the West and Norfolk Southern and its predecessors in the East, reflecting the shared legacy of American railroads serving as the backbone of the country's economic growth. In the coming weeks, Norfolk Southern will unveil its commemorative U.S. 250 series.

In addition to the public display days, rail fans can see this historic machine in action at whistle-stops, generally 15- to 30- minutes long. The time and location for each stop – and instructions for ticketed events – can be found at [UP.com](http://UP.com).

### **Nebraska**

May 25 – Kimball  
May 26 – Ogallala  
May 28 – Gothenburg, Overton, Kearney, Grand Island  
May 29 – Columbus

### **Iowa**

May 31 – Denison, Carroll  
June 1 – Tama, Belle Plaine  
June 2 – Grand Mound

### **Illinois**

June 2 – Sterling, Rochelle  
July 18 – Springfield, Girard

### **Indiana**

June 5 – Argos  
July 16 – Knox

### **Ohio**

June 6 – Continental, Fostoria  
June 8 – Lorain, Euclid  
July 12 – Struthers  
July 13 – Rocky River  
July 15 – Continental

### **New York**

June 9 – Ripley  
June 11 – Silver Springs, Hornell, Letchworth State Park (park admission required)  
June 12 – Owego

### **Pennsylvania**

June 9 – North East  
June 13 – Nicholson  
June 17-30 – Scranton, Steamtown National Historic Site, locomotive maintenance (park admission required)  
July 2 – Reading, Pottstown  
July 7 – Lebanon  
July 8 – Lewistown, Altoona  
July 11 – Cresson, Leetsdale, Historic Horseshoe Curve; ticketed event.

### **Missouri**

July 20 – Pacific, Hermann  
July 21 – California, Kansas City  
July 22 – Kansas City

### **Kansas**

July 23 – Topeka, Salina  
July 24 – Wilson, Hays  
July 25 – Hays  
July 26 – Grainfield

### **Colorado**

July 27 – Kit Carson, Strasburg  
July 29 – Greeley

### **Wyoming**

July 29 – Home in Cheyenne

As part of the tour, the [Union Pacific Museum](#) will be selling tickets to ride in vintage passenger cars pulled by Big Boy through the Poconos Mountains in Pennsylvania on June 14. Interested riders can purchase tickets [here](#).

The tour ends July 29 in Cheyenne, after traveling through a total of 14 states: California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah and Wyoming.

Anyone interested in learning more is invited to join Union Pacific's Steam Club at [upsteam.com](#).

## **ABOUT UNION PACIFIC**

Union Pacific (NYSE: UNP) delivers the goods families and businesses use every day with safe, reliable and efficient service. Operating in 23 western states, the company connects its customers and communities to the global economy. Trains are the most environmentally responsible way to move freight, helping Union Pacific protect future generations. More information about Union Pacific is available at [www.up.com](#).

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