



Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary with World's Largest Steam Locomotive in Philadelphia

July 6, 2026

PHILADELPHIA--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Jul. 6, 2026-- Union Pacific's legendary [Big Boy No. 4014](#) took center stage in Philadelphia on the Fourth of July as tens of thousands gathered for the America250 Block Party, commemorating the nation's 250th anniversary.

This press release features multimedia. View the full release here: <https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20260705751047/en/>



Union Pacific CEO Jim Vena drives the ceremonial Silver Spike as a Charles Carroll actor, left; Richard Anderson, chairman of the Norfolk Southern board of directors; and Ed Dickens, senior manager-Heritage Operations, Union Pacific, look on.

The milestone visit is part of the historic Union Pacific Big Boy No. 4014 coast-to-coast tour, which includes Big Boy's first journey onto eastern rails since 1941 in partnership with Norfolk Southern to

celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary. The railroads are connecting communities and highlighting the continued importance of freight rail to the U.S. economy. Big Boy No. 4014 served as the backdrop for a ceremony featuring Union Pacific Railroad CEO Jim Vena, Norfolk Southern President and CEO Mark George, and Chellie Cameron, president and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia.

"Celebrating our nation's 250th anniversary in Philadelphia is truly spectacular and there's no better way to honor this milestone than with the world's largest operating steam locomotive – a reflection of rail's role in building America," Vena said. "Big Boy's first-ever coast-to-coast journey reflects our proud history building communities and our commitment to the future as we continue delivering safe, reliable service that keeps the U.S. supply chain moving."

"Seeing thousands of people gather around Big Boy and Norfolk Southern's America's 250 locomotive series, including *The Bell*, is a powerful reminder of the role railroads and railroaders have played, and will continue to play, in shaping our country," George said. "We're proud to help celebrate America's 250th anniversary by honoring our shared heritage and the people, innovation and infrastructure that continue to connect communities, power the economy and create opportunities for generations to come."

The event included a ceremonial driving of a Silver Spike, which traveled with Big Boy from Sacramento, California, as it paid homage to the Golden Spike that first connected the nation at Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869. The spike commemorates the first-ever coast-to-coast Big Boy tour and will be part of the Union Pacific Railroad Museum's traveling Experience Car. An actor portraying Charles Carroll – the last surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence who laid the ceremonial cornerstone for the first commercial railroad in the U.S. on July 4, 1828 – also helped highlight rail's earliest ties to the nation's founding.

The coast-to-coast tour brings together a unique collection of rail equipment. Norfolk Southern's historic Marco Polo rail car is a nearly century-old passenger car once used by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The specialty locomotive "The Bell" honors the Liberty Bell and Norfolk Southern predecessor Pennsylvania Railroad's role in transporting it across the country. Two of Union Pacific's commemorative locomotives – No. 1616 Abraham Lincoln locomotive and No. 1776-America250 – are also part of the historic tour.

The tour ends July 29 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, after Big Boy travels about 7,000 miles across 14 states. The public can follow the journey through a live tracking map at [UPsteam.com](#). For everyone's safety, please stay at least 25 feet back from all railroad tracks.

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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ABOUT NORFOLK SOUTHERN

Since 1827, Norfolk Southern Corporation (NYSE: NSC) and its predecessor companies have safely moved the goods and materials that drive the U.S. economy. Today, it operates a 22-state freight transportation network. Committed to furthering sustainability, Norfolk Southern helps its customers avoid approximately 15 million tons of yearly carbon emissions by shipping via rail. Its dedicated team members deliver approximately 7 million carloads annually, from agriculture to consumer goods. Norfolk Southern also has the most extensive intermodal network in the eastern U.S. It serves a majority of the country's population and manufacturing base, with connections to every major container port on the Atlantic coast as well as major ports across the Gulf Coast and Great Lakes. Learn more by visiting www.NorfolkSouthern.com.

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