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# NEWS RELEASE

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## AMTRAK AEM7 LOCOMOTIVE BECOMES NEWEST ADDITON TO RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA'S HISTORIC COLLECTION

**Strasburg, Lancaster County, PA** — As Amtrak's Cities Sprinter ACS-64 electric locomotives take to the rails, another class of locomotives — the AEM7 — is being retired, passing into railroad history. Today, AEM7 No. 915 arrived and joined the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania's world-class collection of more than 100 historic American locomotives and railroad cars.

“The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania has been fortunate to be the recipient of significant railroad equipment donated by Amtrak over the years,” says Museum director Jeffrey Bliemeister. “Our newly-acquired AEM7 No. 915, built in 1981, takes the place of Amtrak E60 No. 603 as the Museum's “youngest” locomotive.”

Fifty-four of the AEM7 locomotives, the design of which was inspired by the Rc4 locomotive built by the General Swedish Electric Company, were produced from 1978 to 1988. Amtrak contracted with General Motors Corporation's Electro-Motive Division (EMD) to design and manufacture the AEM7, and the first units had car bodies built by Budd. Each had 7,000 horsepower and measured roughly 51.5 feet long and 12.5 feet high. Considered lightweight at 101 tons and built to achieve top speeds of 125 mph, the dual cab AEM7 became the mainstay of the Northeast Corridor.

Among railroad fans, the locomotive is affectionately known as a “Swedish meatball” or a “toaster,” due to its country of origin and compact, boxy design. The first AEM7s bore the Amtrak Phase III livery unveiled in 1979—joined red, white and blue stripes of equal width—and became the face of a rebuilt and enhanced Northeast Corridor. If the GG1 represented the initial electrification of the rail lines between New York and Washington and Philadelphia and Harrisburg, the AEM7 was a worthy successor for a new era. Today, as the locomotives are decommissioned, the AEM7 fleet has logged in excess of 200 million miles in service.

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is home to a world-class collection of more than 100 historic locomotives and railroad cars, a vast library and archives, a working restoration shop and an immersive education center. The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. For more information, visit [www.rrmuseumpa.org](http://www.rrmuseumpa.org) or call (717)687-8628.

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