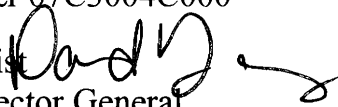




Memorandum

U.S. Department of
Transportation
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement—
Causes of Amtrak Delays
Project Number 07C3004C000

From: David Tornquist 
Assistant Inspector General
for Competition and Economic Analysis

Date: June 1, 2007

Reply to JA-50
Attn of:

To: Federal Railroad Administrator

In recent years Amtrak has struggled to achieve systemwide on-time performance levels of higher than 70 percent. Systemwide on time performance averaged 78 percent between fiscal year (FY) 1998 and 2002 but declined to 68 percent in FY 2006. Long distance train on time performance was 30 percent and corridor trains (trains traveling less than 500 miles), excluding Amtrak's Acela and Regional trains, averaged 67 percent in FY 2006.

At the request of the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, the Office of Inspector General will conduct an audit of the root causes of Amtrak delays. The objectives of this audit are to: (1) identify the root causes of delays for Amtrak trains operating outside of the Northeast Corridor, (2) assess whether Amtrak's passenger trains have been granted preference over freight trains as prescribed by law, and (3) identify practices in dispatching trains that influence delays.

We will contact your audit liaison to schedule a formal entrance conference. The Program Director for this audit is Mitchell Behm. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (202) 366-1981, or Mr. Behm at (202) 366-1995.

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cc: Audit Liaison, OST, M-1
Audit Liaison, FRA, RAD-43
Amtrak Liaison