



# Memorandum

**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: INFORMATION: Audit Announcement-Utilization  
of Amtrak Maintenance and Repair Facilities  
Project No. 09C3003C000

Date: January 6, 2010

From: Mitchell Behm   
Acting Assistant Inspector General for Amtrak,  
High Speed Rail and Economic Analysis

Reply to: JA-50  
Attn of:

To: Federal Railroad Administrator

Amtrak operates 21 equipment maintenance and repair facilities nationwide. Most of these facilities are located at route endpoints and perform turnaround cleaning and minor repair work necessary to prepare the equipment for its next run. However, three of these facilities -- the back shops -- perform substantial equipment overhauls. Amtrak will need to optimize productivity at these back shops in order to meet the increasing demands on its fleet posed by its record ridership levels and planned future expansions in state supported corridor service.

Section 227 of the *Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008*, directs the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation to report on Amtrak's utilization of its existing equipment maintenance and repair facilities. Our objectives are to examine: (1) Amtrak's use of its three back shop facilities; (2) the productivity of such facilities; and (3) the extent to which Amtrak is maximizing opportunities for utilizing each facility, including the provision of maintenance and repair services to other rail carriers.

We will contact your audit liaison to schedule a formal entrance conference. The Program Director for this audit is Yana Hudson. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (202) 366-1995, or Ms. Hudson at (202) 366-2985.

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