



Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit of Service Disruptions
and Delays on the *Amtrak Cascades* and *Coast
Starlight* Routes
Project No. 08C3005C000

Date: October 9, 2008

From: David Tornquist
Assistant Inspector General
for Rail and Maritime Program Audits and
Economic Analysis

Reply to: JA-50
Attn of:

To: Federal Railroad Administrator

The Office of the Inspector General plans to conduct an audit of service issues on two of Amtrak's West Coast routes, the *Amtrak Cascades* and the *Coast Starlight*, both of which have struggled with ongoing delays and disruptions in recent years. In FY 2007, the *Amtrak Cascades* and *Coast Starlight* had an on-time performance of 59.7 percent and 22.1 percent respectively. Reducing delays and improving on-time performance on these routes will increase ridership and revenue, and make them more viable transportation alternatives.

This audit is being conducted in response to Section 225 of Division B of HR 2095, the *Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008*. The objective of this audit is to identify the source of service delays and disruptions on the *Amtrak Cascades* and *Coast Starlight* routes and make recommendations for improving their on-time performance.

We will contact your audit liaison to schedule a formal entrance conference. If you have any questions or need additional information, please call me at (202) 366-1981.

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