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

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