



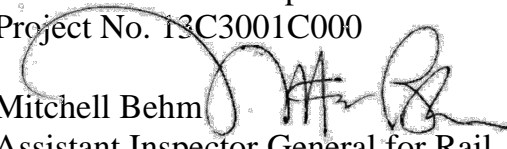
Memorandum

**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation
Office of Inspector General

Subject: **INFORMATION:** Audit Announcement –
Review of FRA’s Implementation of PRIIA
Project No. 13C3001C000

Date: February 27, 2013

From: Mitchell Behm 
Assistant Inspector General for Rail, Maritime,
Pipeline and Hazardous Material, and Economic
Analysis

Reply to
Attn. of: JA-50

To: Federal Rail Administrator:

In 2008, Congress passed the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) to strengthen intercity passenger rail services in the United States. This comprehensive statute reauthorized Federal appropriations to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak), and dramatically expanded the Federal Railroad Administration’s (FRA) role in improving the Nation’s passenger rail operations and facilities.

PRIIA Section 221 requires the Department of Transportation’s Office of the Inspector General to assess Amtrak and FRA’s progress in implementing the Act’s provisions within three years of PRIIA’s enactment, and two years thereafter. Pursuant to congressional approval and our agreement with Amtrak’s IG, we focused our first audit on PRIIA’s FRA-related provisions, while Amtrak’s IG assessed the company’s progress in implementing the Act’s Amtrak-related provisions. We issued our first PRIIA implementation report in March 2012.

In keeping with this arrangement, we are now initiating our final audit under this provision. Our audit objectives are to: (1) examine FRA’s progress to date in implementing its PRIIA responsibilities; and (2) identify any challenges to completing the implementation.

Amtrak’s Inspector General (IG) will conduct a concurrent assessment of the company’s progress in implementing PRIIA’s Amtrak-related provisions. For additional information regarding the objectives, scope, and methodology of the

Amtrak IG's assessment, please contact David R. Warren, Assistant Inspector General for Audits at (202) 906-4742.

We will contact your audit liaison to schedule an entrance conference to discuss this audit. We plan to begin the audit on or around February 25, 2013, and will conduct it at DOT headquarters in Washington, DC and other sites as needed. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at (202) 366-9970, or Yana Hudson, Program Director, at (202) 366-2985.

cc: FRA Audit Liaison, RAD-41
DOT Audit Liaison, M-1

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