

AMTRAK

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William J. Flynn
Chief Executive Officer



June 1, 2021

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

The *Metrics and Minimum Standards for Intercity Passenger Rail Service* final rule published by the Federal Railroad Administration (“FRA”) on November 16, 2020 (the “Final Rule”), introduces a certified schedule metric that requires the FRA to report the number of certified Amtrak schedules, uncertified schedules, and disputed schedules, by train, route, and host railroad.

The Final Rule defines a “certified schedule” as a published Amtrak train schedule that Amtrak and the host railroad jointly certify is aligned with the customer on-time performance (“OTP”) metric and standard set forth in the Final Rule.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Final Rule, Amtrak and New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) are transmitting this letter regarding the following schedules that remain uncertified as of May 17, 2021, as agreement has not been reached on whether the schedule is aligned to customer OTP:

1. Southwest Chief Trains 3 and 4.

Exhibit A details Amtrak’s position regarding the components of the train schedules which are disagreed upon, signed by me.

Exhibit B details NMDOT’s position regarding the components of the train schedules which are disagreed upon, signed on behalf of NMDOT Cabinet Secretary Michael Sandoval by Justin Reese of that department.



Amtrak and NMDOT continue to meet regularly and hope to come to an agreement on the certification of all schedules no later than September 30, 2021. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the information provided in this transmittal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Flynn".

William J. Flynn
Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

- cc:
- The Honorable Martin J. Oberman, Chairman, Surface Transportation Board
 - The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chair, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, U.S. Senate
 - The Honorable Roger Wicker, Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, U.S. Senate
 - The Honorable Rosa L. DeLauro, Chair, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Kay Granger, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Patrick Leahy, Chair, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate
 - The Honorable Richard Shelby, Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations, U.S. Senate
 - The Honorable Pete Aguilar, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Nanette Diaz Barragán, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Karen Bass, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Michael Bennett, U.S. Senate
 - The Honorable Roy Blunt, U.S. Senate
 - The Honorable Ken Buck, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Cheri Bustos, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Ken Calvert, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Sean Casten, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Judy Chu, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Lou Correa, U.S. House of Representatives
 - The Honorable Sharice Davids, U.S. House of Representatives



The Honorable Danny Davis, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Dick Durbin, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Joni Ernst, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Ron Estes, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Teresa Leger Fernandez, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Bill Foster, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jesús García, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jimmy Gomez, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Paul Gosar, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Josh Hawley, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Martin Heinrich, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Yvette Herrell, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable John Hickenlooper, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Robin Kelly, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Young Kim, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Adam Kinzinger, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Darin LaHood, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jake LaTurner, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Ted Lieu, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Ben Ray Luján, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Tracey Mann, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Roger Marshall, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Marianne Miller-Meeks, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jerry Moran, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Marie Newman, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Jay Obernolte, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Tom O'Halleran, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Mike Quigley, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Bobby Rush, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Linda T. Sánchez, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Janice Schakowsky, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Adam Schiff, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Mark Takano, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg

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The Honorable Norma Torres, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Lauren Underwood, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Maxine Waters, U.S. House of Representatives

Exhibit A

Amtrak's position regarding the disagreed upon components of the train schedules.

The Final Rule defines a “certified schedule” as a published train schedule that Amtrak and the host railroad jointly certify is aligned with the customer on-time performance (“OTP”) metric and standard set forth in the Final Rule. In order to determine whether a train schedule is aligned with the customer OTP metric, Amtrak developed an analytical framework to review each schedule and its alignment with the customer OTP metric. Fundamentally, the analytical framework confirms whether the schedule works to minimize passenger delay while giving riders the greatest opportunity to arrive at their destinations on-time. Several criteria, listed below, were rigorously analyzed to determine whether the schedule was appropriately aligned to the customer OTP metric.

1. **Prior Customer OTP Schedule Modifications.** If Amtrak and the host railroad previously agreed to modify the schedule to align with customer OTP, and no significant changes in passenger deboarding patterns were evident since that agreement, that schedule was determined to be aligned with the customer OTP metric.
2. **Strong Historical Performance.** While certification directly relates to the schedule, not actual performance, if a train has regularly exceeded the minimum standard 80% customer OTP, that schedule was deemed to be aligned with the customer OTP metric.
3. **Recovery Time-Ridership Correlation.** Amtrak performed a regression analysis for each schedule to calculate the correlation between the placement of recovery time in the schedule and the number of detraining riders at each station. If the regression result was strong (0.5 or more), the train schedule was determined to be aligned with the customer OTP metric.
4. **Recovery Time Distributed to Passenger Benefit.** Amtrak developed a measurement of the schedule's recovery time distribution to determine whether that time is effectively placed to help passengers. If the recovery time is placed in advance of detraining passengers to help them arrive on-time, then, based on a consistent calculation for all trains, the schedule was determined to be aligned with the customer OTP metric.

Table 1 lists each uncertified train schedule by service and notes which criteria were met for each schedule that led to Amtrak's determination that the schedule is aligned with customer OTP. Amtrak looks forward to continuing to work with New Mexico Department of Transportation to certify the following schedules.

Sincerely,



William J. Flynn
Chief Executive Officer
Amtrak

Table 1: Amtrak Schedule Alignment Analysis Results by Train

Service	Train	Train Origin-Destination	1. Prior Customer OTP Schedule Modifications	2. Strong Historical Performance	3. Recovery Time-Ridership Correlation	4. Recovery Time Distributed to Passenger Benefit	Assessment based on Criteria
Southwest Chief	3	Chicago-Los Angeles	Yes		√	√	Aligned to Customer OTP
Southwest Chief	4	Chicago-Los Angeles	Yes			√	Aligned to Customer OTP