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ENTERED  
Office of Proceedings  
February 1, 2016  
Part of  
Public Record

Docket no. EP 726

I am a CPA who does consulting work in a number of major cities around the country living just outside of Dayton, OH. I have two Amtrak choices:

- 1.) Cincinnati, just over an hour away (75 miles), but served only three times per week
- 2.) Toledo, about 2 hours and 30 minutes (150 miles) north, and served by two daily trains, seven days a week..

I prefer traveling Amtrak because of its comfort, convenience, price reasonableness and the fact that in all major cities the rail terminals are located in downtown areas that are very close to other forms of city transportation.

I believe that rail passenger train services need to be held to a much higher standard of on time performance than as it was in the past and I suggest that no train arrive at any intermediary or end point station more than five minutes scheduled arrival time. The host railroads can achieve this object because at any time during a railroad business day the host railroad adheres to their own schedules down to the minute. I believe that the scheduling agreements forged between AMTRAK and the host railroads should, can and must be adhered to.

One final point -- should this recommendation be adopted, the host freight railroads will almost certainly attempt to add more time into rail passenger schedules. This has been done in the past, and on-time performance would always suffer. Over the years as an AMTRAK passenger I've seen this situation occur many times.

Please let's keep the American Rail Passenger system operating on its scheduled times so that all passengers can arrive at their destinations to meet their commitments.