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I feel that it is most important that somewhere within the definition of "on time," as it pertains to Amtrak trains operating over the tracks of host railroad companies should be a provision that the host railroads must deliver Amtrak trains "on time" to any point on their route at which a connection is reasonably planned to be made by Amtrak passengers.

Amtrak sells tickets in good faith, to passengers with the promise, or implied promise that they will arrive at, a connecting station "on time" so that passengers may continue their journey on a connecting train. The host railroad should have a significant degree of liability in assuring that the train they are responsible for operating does, indeed, operate in a timely fashion to make connections.

The STB should identify those points on the Amtrak system at which such connections are made and develop language within the rule that recognizes the added importance of "on time" operation to allow for reasonable connections from one Amtrak train to another.

It is important to understand that many Amtrak routes (especially long distance routes) operate only one train per day, or even only three trains per week and the failure to make connections to and from these routes can impose significant multi-day delays and hardships on travelers. This in turn makes it more difficult for Amtrak to generate revenue from ticket sales if potential passengers cannot have faith in being able to make connections.

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