



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Investigative Hearing

Managing Safety on Passenger Railroads: Amtrak Overspeed Derailment – DuPont, Washington; and CSX and Amtrak Train Collision – Cayce, South Carolina.

GROUP	C
EXHIBIT	
6	

Agency / Organization

Amtrak

Title

Host Railroad Relationship

Amtrak's Host Railroad Relationships

Amtrak's operations on host railroads are primarily framed by statute, rather than arms-length economic transactions. Amtrak's statutory rights are derived from The Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970 and subsequent amendments, now codified at 49 U.S.C. §§ 24101 et seq. These rights include:

- Access to any host rail line in the US
- Use of host railroad facilities
- Payments based on host's incremental cost
- Amtrak preference over freight service
- Condemnation authority

Amtrak's Operating Agreements with host railroads translate the general terms of the statute to host-specific negotiated terms and conditions that provide the foundation for day to day Amtrak operations on each host railroad, dealing with issues including:

- Operation of existing service
- Service standards
- Implementing new service
- Payment amounts and terms for services provided by the host
- Liability apportionment
- Dispute resolution

Amtrak currently has operating agreements with 29 host railroads for regularly scheduled services. Ad hoc operating agreements are negotiated for single movements on individual non-network host railroads.

These agreements require annual update of cost and schedule provisions, and periodic modification of access, liability, performance and responsibility provisions.

Host railroad operating agreements are legally binding, and generally run for five to twenty years. After the initial term, if neither party seeks to renegotiate, most contracts continue indefinitely.

Relationship Management with Host Railroads

Amtrak's Host Railroad Group serves as the primary liaison between all Amtrak departments and host railroads for issues related to network and service design, station services, and financial transactions governed by the host railroad operating agreements.

The Host Railroad Group interfaces primarily with designated personnel on the host railroads assigned to on Amtrak related issues – National Railroad Passenger Corporation (NRPC) Officers. For some railroads, these individuals are paid for by Amtrak through the provisions of the host railroad operating agreement.