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BEFORE THE
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
DOCKET NO. NOR 42175

COMPLAINT AND PETITION OF THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORP.
UNDER 49 U.S.C. § 24308(f)–FOR SUBSTANDARD PERFORMANCE OF
AMTRAK’S SUNSET LIMITED TRAINS 1 AND 2

AMTRAK’S RESPONSE TO THE BOARD’S FEBRUARY 13, 2024 QUESTIONS

Pursuant to the Surface Transportation Board’s (“Board”) February 13, 2024 and April 5, 2024 Orders, the National Railroad Passenger Corp. (“Amtrak”) is producing materials relied on in preparing its root cause analysis for train delays listed in Part I of the appendix to the February 13 Order. The materials include trouble reports, locomotive data, and dispatch playbacks for the segment of track between New Orleans and Southport Junction.¹ See AMTRAK_STB_0048141-0048172. Trouble reports are prepared by an Amtrak Signal Inspector to document signal issues encountered during train operations. Locomotive data provides information about when the *Sunset Limited* stopped and started along its route. Dispatch playbacks distill the movement of *Sunset Limited* trains in a simple visual format, illustrating the timing and path of the train and also providing context about available infrastructure, other train movements, and signals. All materials are identified in the Table of Contents located at the end of this document.

Additionally, Amtrak hereby updates its root cause analyses for the signal delay that occurred on March 8, 2022 in order to clarify the causes of delay. Amtrak is providing this update based on a reasonable and diligent investigation of its records and the information reasonably

¹ Amtrak also consulted appropriate personnel, including an assistant superintendent, senior field engineer, and road foreman.

available to Amtrak at this time. Amtrak reserves the right to modify or supplement these responses if additional information becomes available.

I. HOST RESPONSIBLE DELAYS – EXCEPT SLOW ORDER DELAYS

Investigative Question. Amtrak, UP, BNSF, SCRRA, and CN are directed to provide narrative explanations of the root causes of the “Host-responsible Delays on a Run-by-Run Basis” listed in Part I of the Appendix, consistent with the instructions provided in this decision.

B. Signal Delay on March 8, 2022 (9 Minutes)

Based on its reasonable and diligent investigation, Amtrak has determined that there were two primary causes of this delay. Train No. 1 first encountered a technical issue with the VHLC at CP Carrollton.² More specifically, a feature of the VHLC’s memory prompted the VHLC to display field blocks. Because of that issue, Amtrak’s Train Director blocked protection from CN and required authority by Stop Signal. The technical issue that drove this failure was investigated and remediated. Train No. 1 then encountered a restricted signal at Southport Junction.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: April 29, 2024

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² Amtrak previously reported that one primary cause of this delay was a systemwide AT&T disruption between New Orleans and Chicago that disrupted remote control of the signal at CP Carrollton. However, that disruption occurred one day prior to this delay.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Jessica Ring Amunson, certify that copies of this document are simultaneously being provided by email to all parties identified on the service list for this proceeding, Docket Number NOR 42175.

April 29, 2024

/s/ Jessica Ring Amunson
Jessica Ring Amunson

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Request Responsive To	Document	Bates Begin	Confidentiality Designation
App'x I	February 9, 2022 Locomotive Data	AMTRAK_STB_0048141	Confidential
App'x I	March 9, 2022 Locomotive Data	AMTRAK_STB_ 0048142	Confidential
App'x I	March 12, 2022 Locomotive Data	AMTRAK_STB_ 0048143	Confidential
App'x I	March 19, 2022 Locomotive Data	AMTRAK_STB _0048144	Confidential
App'x I	June 4, 2022 Locomotive Data	AMTRAK_STB_ 0048145	Confidential
App'x I	February 2022 Trouble Log	AMTRAK_STB_ 0048146	Public
App'x I	March 2022 Trouble Log	AMTRAK_STB_0048147	Public
App'x I	February 9, 2022 Playbacks	AMTRAK_STB_0048148	Confidential
App'x I	March 12, 2022 Playbacks	AMTRAK_ STB_0048154	Confidential
App'x I	March 19, 2022 Playbacks	AMTRAK_STB_0048161	Confidential
App'x I	June 4, 2022 Playbacks	AMTRAK_STB_0048168	Confidential