



OFFICE *of* INSPECTOR GENERAL
NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

Financial Management:

Review of Amtrak's Procurement of Its Independent Public Accountant

OIG-SP-2025-004 | March 27, 2025


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Memorandum

To: Joel Szabat
Chairman, Audit and Finance Committee, Amtrak Board of Directors

Tracie A. Winbigler
Executive Vice President, Business Transformation and
Chief Financial Officer

From: Kevin H. Winters 
Inspector General

Date: March 27, 2025

Subject: *Financial Management: Review of Amtrak's Procurement of Its Independent Public Accountant* (OIG-SP-2025-004)

Amtrak (the company) contracts with an independent certified public accounting firm (IPA)¹ to audit its financial statements and its compliance with the terms of its federal financial assistance.² As required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended,³ we monitor the activities of the IPA to help ensure audit quality and compliance with standards. Relevant federal auditing guidance also requires OIGs to oversee the procurement and selection of their auditee's IPA.⁴ Consistent with that guidance, we monitored the company's process for recompeting its IPA audit services contract.

Our objectives were to (1) assess whether the company followed its policies to ensure fair and open competition for the procurement; (2) verify that the selected IPA was independent and qualified; and (3) ensure that the contract terms would allow our office to continue to meet the statutory requirement to monitor the IPA's audit activities. We designed our scope and methodology to align with federal auditing

¹ The charter of the company's Audit and Finance Committee of the Board of Directors stipulates that "Management of the company is responsible for the financial statements and annual audits of financial statements for the company." Accordingly, management is responsible for procuring the services of an IPA to audit Amtrak's financial statements.

² Because the company receives federal government funding, it must obtain annual audits in accordance with standards established by the Comptroller General of the United States.

³ 5 U.S.C. § 404(b)(1)(C).

⁴ Government Accountability Office and Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, *Financial Audit Manual: Volume 2* (GAO-24-107279), June 2024.

Amtrak Office of Inspector General
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guidance. Accordingly, we reviewed contract documents, including the request for proposal, statement of work, and contract provisions. We also monitored relevant procurement activities, such as the company's technical evaluation process and its communications with bidders. We did not provide input or recommendations to the company regarding which IPA to select, as that is a management responsibility. We conducted our work between March 2024 and March 2025.

RESULTS

In January 2025, the company selected, and the Board appointed the company's IPA. We oversaw the procurement and selection of this IPA and found the following:

- The company followed its policies to ensure fair and open competition in the procurement.
- The selected contractor is independent and qualified to perform this work.⁵
- The terms of the contract will allow us to continue to meet our statutory requirements to monitor the IPA's audit activities.

If you have any questions, please contact me at Kevin.Winters@amtrakoig.gov or at 202-906-4600.

⁵ The IPA was independent at the time of contract award. We will, however, continue to monitor its independence throughout the term of the contract.

OIG MISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Mission

The Amtrak OIG's mission is to provide independent, objective oversight of Amtrak's programs and operations through audits and investigations focused on recommending improvements to Amtrak's economy, efficiency, and effectiveness; preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse; and providing Congress, Amtrak management, and Amtrak's Board of Directors with timely information about problems and deficiencies relating to Amtrak's programs and operations.

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