

# Relieving rail congestion >>

More frequent, reliable,  
and faster Amtrak  
*Cascades*<sup>®</sup> service

## Point Defiance Bypass Project

**F**reight congestion, tight curves, mudslides and drawbridge openings all cause delays for Amtrak *Cascades* trains. For passengers, this means missed connections, missed appointments and lost time with family and friends.

The new inland passenger rail route will create room for Amtrak *Cascades* to add more daily trains, and will shorten travel times by eliminating delays.

### Project information

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/rail/pnwrc\\_ptdefiance](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/rail/pnwrc_ptdefiance)

### Cascades High Speed Rail program information

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/passengerrail](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/passengerrail)

### Train schedules & tickets

[www.amtrakcascades.com](http://www.amtrakcascades.com)



Point Defiance Bypass

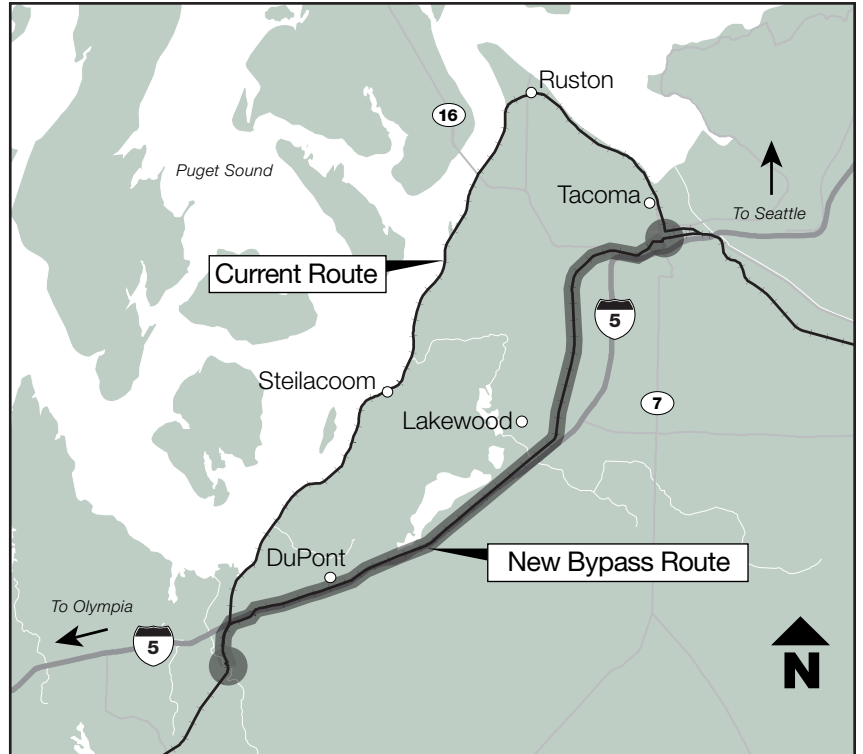
**POINT DEFIANCE BYPASS PROJECT**

**Where is the project?**

The Point Defiance Bypass rail project proposes to reroute passenger trains from the BNSF Railway main line that runs near Point Defiance to an existing rail line that runs through south Tacoma, Lakewood, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, and DuPont.

**Why reroute the train away from the scenic waterfront?**

It's hard to dispute the beauty of the scenic waterfront route around Point Defiance, but that train route is congested with nearly 50 daily freight trains and is prone to mudslides and other disruptions.



**The details**

- New and upgraded track on a 14.5-mile section of dedicated passenger rail route adjacent to main track currently under construction by Sound Transit
- Ten reconstructed at-grade crossings with an advanced warning and signal system
- New staffed Amtrak passenger station within Freighthouse Square where Sound Transit currently operates the Tacoma Dome Station for Sounder commuter trains

**The benefits**

- Two additional round trips between Seattle and Portland, for a total of six
- Shortened travel time
- Improved on-time performance

**The investment**

Washington state was awarded nearly \$800 million for rail corridor improvements within the state. The Point Defiance Bypass is one project in that program.

**Federal High Speed Rail Funds: \$89.1 million**

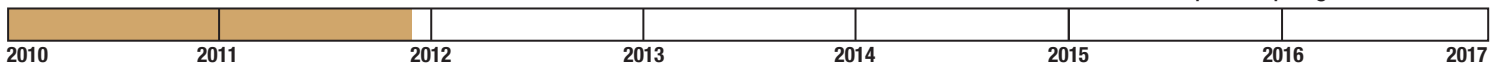
The states of Washington and Oregon, along with Amtrak jointly sponsor Amtrak *Cascades*; a 466-mile regional service that operates between Eugene, Ore. and Vancouver, B.C.

**Project Status:**

**Environmental work**  
Complete: fall 2012

**Project design**  
Complete: winter 2015

**Project construction**  
Complete: spring 2017



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