



May 2014 – in review

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WSDOT and BNSF update mayors and city councils on Landslide Mitigation Working Group

In early May, WSDOT and BNSF officials accepted an invitation to meet with the Mukilteo mayor and city council, giving an update on the Landslide Mitigation Working Group. WSDOT first met with Mukilteo elected officials in 2013, shortly after the working group was convened to address the effect from high number of landslides on passenger rail service between Seattle and Everett. Over the past 1-1/2 years, the working group researched contributing factors for landslides in the north corridor, developed short- and long-term landslide mitigation strategies, participated in both a public open house and workshop, and prepared a brochure to educate and motivate property owners about slope management practices. In addition, WSDOT designed six slope stabilization projects, including two now constructed. In late May, WSDOT will meet with the Everett mayor and city council. A presentation to Edmonds elected officials is being scheduled.

Washington and Oregon celebrate National Train Day in the Northwest

National Train Day (May 10) featured celebrations along the Amtrak Cascades corridor in Washington and Oregon. Hundreds of people attended the events at many stations in both states, where WSDOT and ODOT staff were keynote speakers and hosted booths with displays and handouts. In Washington, WSDOT celebrated at the historic King Street Station in Seattle. The WSDOT Rail Division Director was joined by the City of Seattle and Amtrak representatives to present information about the Amtrak Cascades service, remodeled King Street station, and new locomotives. In addition to WSDOT, booths were set up by Operation Lifesaver, Talgo, All Aboard Washington and others. Seattle's top chef Tom Douglas gave live cooking demonstrations at King Street Station. WSDOT discounted the train fare to attend the event. In Oregon, ODOT participated in the Portland and Salem events, and train station staff and volunteers hosted events in Eugene, Albany and Klamath Falls.