

How are the trains performing?

WSDOT measures the performance of Amtrak Cascades in a number of important ways. Key performance measures include ridership, on-time performance, customer satisfaction, and farebox recovery. Performance statistics are available in WSDOT's Gray Notebook quarterly report and at www.wsdot.wa.gov/freight/rail.

Will WSDOT add more Amtrak Cascades service?

The only service change WSDOT anticipates in the near future is the extension of the Seattle-Bellingham train to Vancouver, BC. The existing state budget for passenger rail construction projects in Washington will not result in any new daily service—based on the current construction agreement between WSDOT and the BNSF Railway. The projects WSDOT will construct over the next several years will reduce the travel times for all passenger trains between Seattle and Portland and will help the trains stay on schedule.

However, it may be possible to add more trains if additional federal funds are made available. If this



Vancouver, BC is the northern terminus for Amtrak Cascades.

occurs, WSDOT will work with the Governor, the state legislature, BNSF railway and Amtrak to identify opportunities to add additional daily service.

How will WSDOT continue to improve Amtrak Cascades service?

WSDOT will continue to work with BNSF and Amtrak to improve Amtrak Cascades on-time performance. Ensuring that the trains stay on schedule is very important to WSDOT, the Governor, and Amtrak Cascades passengers.



WSDOT and Amtrak Cascades

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Since 1994 the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) has worked with railroads, Amtrak, the state of Oregon,

the Province of British Columbia, and others to provide fast, reliable, and more frequent intercity passenger rail service along

the Interstate 5 corridor. The service, known as Amtrak Cascades, provides travelers transportation options for their intercity trips.



For More Information:

WSDOT State Rail & Marine Office
rail@wsdot.wa.gov

360-705-7900

www.wsdot.wa.gov/rail
www.amtrakcascades.com

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What is WSDOT's role in Amtrak Cascades?

The Washington State Legislature instructed WSDOT to develop intercity passenger rail service between Portland, OR, Seattle, Bellingham, and Vancouver, British Columbia (BC). WSDOT is responsible for planning and project identification; budget development; construction project management and reporting; operations oversight and reporting; local, regional, state, national, and international program coordination; public education; public involvement; and marketing activities. Since 1994 WSDOT has invested over \$300 million in public funds for track and signal improvements, new train equipment, station construction and renovations, and train operations

What cities are served by Amtrak Cascades?

Amtrak *Cascades* passenger trains stop in 17 cities along a 466-mile rail corridor that spans from Eugene, Oregon to Vancouver, BC. The average distance between stations is around 30 miles. These cities and adjacent communities are home to nearly eight million residents.

What is it like to ride on Amtrak Cascades?

Each Amtrak *Cascades* train seats up to 244 people, with space for four mobility-impaired passengers. The trains offer Coach Class and Business Class seating. Each passenger car has electrical outlets, large windows for sightseeing, and video monitors that show a safety briefing, movies, and real-time trip information. Each train has a Bistro car that offers fresh local foods, snacks, light meals, and



beverages. The trains also have several restrooms, a lounge car, and a baggage car for luggage and bicycles. On-board services—including security, ticketing, luggage assistance, food and beverage sales, and traveler information—are provided by Amtrak personnel.

Amtrak *Cascades* trains travel at speeds up to 79 mph and have a specially-designed tilting suspension system that allows the trains to move through curves at higher speeds while maintaining passenger comfort.

How much does it cost to ride the train? How do I get tickets?

Ticket prices vary by the length of the trip and season of travel. Fares between Seattle and Portland, and Seattle and Vancouver, BC range from \$28 to \$45 each way. Business Class seating is slightly more. Purchase tickets well in advance to get the best prices. A variety of travel deals are available

as well as everyday discounts for kids, seniors, AAA members, the military, and more.

Every train trip starts with a reservation and a ticket. There are several ways to make a reservation and purchase tickets:

- Visit www.AmtrakCascades.com.
- Call 1-800-USA-Rail.
- Go to a staffed Amtrak station.
- Use a QuikTrak machine at an Amtrak station.

Purchase tickets online or by phone at least ten calendar days in advance (15 days in Canada), and Amtrak will mail them to you. Tickets purchased online or by phone, less than ten calendar days in advance, can be delivered overnight for a fee.

How is the Amtrak Cascades service paid for?

The operation of Amtrak *Cascades* is funded by passengers, the states of Washington and Oregon, and

Amtrak. Funding from the state of Washington comes from taxes collected from the sale of new and used motor vehicles, rental cars, and vehicle weight fees. These funds are directed to WSDOT's intercity passenger rail program by the Governor and the state legislature. Some federal grants are also received by WSDOT for rail projects. It should be noted that no state or federal gas tax dollars can be spent on rail construction projects or Amtrak *Cascades* operations.

State and some federal funds go towards rail construction projects that allow Amtrak *Cascades* trains to run safely, reliably, more frequently, and with reduced travel times between cities. State funds are also used for day-to-day operation of the trains.

Amtrak Cascades Milestones

