

# Cascades High Speed Rail Program



## Overview

WSDOT is investing nearly \$800 million in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to deliver incremental and critical rail infrastructure improvements for emerging high-speed rail service, expand travel choices, and foster economic growth in Washington state.

## Program Goal

Expand and improve Amtrak Cascades passenger service to provide a fast and reliable travel option between Eugene, Oregon, and Vancouver, British Columbia, while also developing corridor for future growth

## Passenger Rail in Washington and Oregon

Washington and Oregon jointly operate the Amtrak Cascades intercity passenger rail service along a 467-mile corridor between two states and a Canadian province. Passenger trains share the tracks with freight train and travel at top speeds of 79 mph.

## 20 Federally Funded Projects

Types of improvements include:

- New bypass and siding tracks to ease congestion
- Multiple upgrades to existing track
- Upgrades to advanced warning signal systems and safety-related projects

- Station upgrades and expansions
- Eight new locomotives

## Program Update May 2017

- There are two projects in construction and 18 completed projects.
- All will be completed in 2017

## Program Outcomes in Washington

- 10** minute travel time reduction between Seattle and Portland
- 2** additional daily round trips between Seattle and Portland, for six total
- 88** percent on-time performance

## Current Daily Round Trip Service Includes

- Four Amtrak Cascades daily round trips between Portland and Seattle
- Two daily round trips between Eugene and Portland
- Two daily round trips between Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia

## Strong Ridership

### RIDERSHIP:

2016: 817,000

### REVENUE:

2016: \$30.2 MILLION

## Reducing Congestion and Improving Reliability

The same way highways get clogged when there are too many cars, rail lines also get congested with too many trains. Sharing tracks means the faster passenger trains sometimes are delayed behind slow-moving freight trains.

Several of the Amtrak Cascades High-Speed Rail projects reduce congestion and improve on-time performance, including:

- Installing new rail yard bypass, a rail trench along the Columbia River, and new lead tracks in Vancouver
- Adding siding tracks to Kalama and Longview ports
- New train bridge in Kelso
- Rerouting trains into Tacoma bypasses congested main line and single track tunnels
- Building new Amtrak station at Tacoma's Freighthouse Square
- Improving facility and multimodal options at new Tukwila station

- Reducing landslide delays between Seattle and Everett
- Adding tracks at Blaine customs facility
- Seismic retrofit of historic King Street Station and track improvements



Washington and Oregon sponsor Amtrak Cascades intercity passenger rail service, which takes passengers between Vancouver, British Columbia and Eugene, Oregon.

## MORE INFORMATION

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