

Improving reliability, preventing landslides >>

Fewer landslides and service disruptions means more reliable passenger rail

Corridor Reliability - Slide Management Projects

Landslides along rail lines disrupt service for Amtrak Cascades trains and inconvenience passengers. More than 200 slides have occurred along the Seattle to Everett coastline in the past decade, leading to cancelled train trips.

When trains aren't running, it impacts us all. WSDOT and its partners are taking action to prevent and reduce these service disruptions and improve passenger rail service.

Project information

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/Rail/slidemanagement/>

Cascades High Speed Rail program information

<http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/Projects.htm>

Train schedules & tickets

www.amtrakcascades.com

Corridor Reliability



Washington State
Department of Transportation



Immediately following a landslide along rail lines, BNSF Railway imposes an automatic 48-hour halt on passenger rail service to clear debris and ensure that the area is stable before sending passenger trains through.

Washington state received \$16.1 million in federal funding to identify, design and construct slope stabilization projects along tracks between Seattle and Everett. WSDOT formed the Landslide Mitigation Working Group in 2013, partnering with BNSF, Sound Transit, Amtrak and many local entities and governments to research the problem, find solutions and identify stabilization project locations.



Landslides can block tracks and delay train service.



Crews install supports for new retaining walls, to keep debris off tracks.



Slope stabilization work helps prevent future landslides.

The details

- Landslide causes and locations were researched to identify high-risk areas along the northern rail corridor
- Six slope stabilization projects identified between Seattle and Everett
- Two projects constructed in 2014
- Work on the remaining four sites will take place summer of 2015
- Open houses with local government and landowners provided information and tips for landowners on how to help prevent landslides. More are planned.

Stabilization work includes

- Retaining walls to catch debris before it hits tracks
- Slide detection fences for early landslide warnings
- Improved drainage systems
- Erosion control

The benefits

- Fewer service disruptions from landslides means more reliable passenger rail
- Early Detection
- Property damage minimized and response costs reduced

The investment

Washington state was awarded nearly \$800 million in federal high-speed rail funds for rail corridor improvements. The Slide Management projects are part of that program and have a \$16.1 million budget.

Amtrak Cascades service

Washington and Oregon jointly sponsor Amtrak Cascades, a 467-mile regional service that operates between Eugene, Oregon, and Vancouver, British Columbia.

Project Status:



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