

Washington State Department of Transportation - News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Amtrak *Cascades* offers new connecting bus service for Everett, Mt. Vernon, and Bellingham communities

OLYMPIA – Beginning today, Amtrak *Cascades* and Empire Builder passengers in Everett, Mt. Vernon and Bellingham will have a new connecting Thruway motorcoach from trains traveling to and from Seattle.

With this added bus service, passengers will be able to travel round trip between Eugene, Oregon and Bellingham, Washington.

The new bus schedule will connect with the northbound Amtrak *Cascades* train in Seattle at 12 p.m. daily and will stop in Everett, Mt. Vernon, and Bellingham. Southbound travelers will depart Bellingham at 2:50 p.m. daily and arrive in Seattle at 5 p.m. where they can connect with the Amtrak *Cascades* train headed to Eugene, OR.

In addition, Amtrak passengers in Bellingham and Mount Vernon traveling on the Empire Builder can use the same bus schedule to make connections to and from the train. Eastbound passengers will depart Bellingham at 2:50 p.m. daily, Mount Vernon at 3:20 p.m. and arrive in Everett at 4:05 p.m. where they can connect with the 5:44 p.m. departure of the Empire Builder headed to Spokane, WA and Chicago, IL.

“WSDOT and Amtrak are always looking to improve and expand rail passenger service wherever possible,” said Jeff Schultz, WSDOT Operations and Rolling Stock Manager. “By adding this service, we are providing more travel options for Amtrak *Cascades* and Empire Builder customers.”

Amtrak *Cascades* and Empire Builder travelers can make reservations starting today. For schedules, fares and information, passengers may call 800-USA-RAIL or visit www.amtrak.com.

Amtrak *Cascades* consists of four daily round-trips between Portland and Seattle, with service between Bellingham, Wash., and Portland, via Seattle; between Eugene and Seattle, via Portland; and between Seattle and Vancouver, B.C. Amtrak *Cascades* is operated by Amtrak under contracts with the Washington and Oregon Departments of Transportation.

For schedules, fares and information, visit www.amtrakcascades.com or call 800-USA-RAIL.

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