

Washington State Rail Plan

Integrated Freight and Passenger Rail Plan

2013-2035

Kerri Woehler

Rail Operations Program Manager

Jason Beloso

Rail Planning Manager

International Mobility Trade Corridor

April 17, 2014

What is the Purpose of the State Rail Plan?

- Fulfills federal and state requirements.
- Provides an integrated plan for freight and passenger rail, including 5- and 20-year funding strategies, that meets federal and state requirements.
- Builds on previous plans and guides future efforts.
- Serves as a strategic blueprint for future public investment in the state's rail transportation system.



Years of collaborative, consistent planning and substantial state investment prepared WSDOT to compete for and secure nearly \$800 million in federal funds for passenger rail improvements.

It's time to be thinking about what's next for freight and passenger rail.

Washington State Rail Network



The Right Tool for the Right Job

Terminals and Yards



Key links in supply chains

Short-Line Railroads



Provide access to North American freight network

Class I Railroads



Main lines of the North American freight network

Regional/Commuter Rail



Suburbs to major metro

Intercity Rail



Between major metros

Long-Distance Rail



National system

Rail System Needs

“What”

Rail Operations and Infrastructure Needs



“Why”

Rail's Role in Economic Development



“How”

Rail System Priorities and Goals



Freight Rail in Washington State

- Rail is critical to the ongoing vitality of the state's major industries.
- Extensive network connects citizens and industry and provides good mobility for existing train volumes.
- Meeting future demand is the challenge.
- Near-term priorities:
 - Use performance measures to assess funding needs.
 - Consider expansion of funding partnerships
 - Investment priorities:
 - maintenance and preservation
 - first and last mile connectivity
 - domestic and international trade



Box Cars and Port Vancouver Wa. Robert Gaskin.
April 2013. Flickr. September 24, 2013.
www.flickr.com/photos/24039825@N06/8649193535/



Amtrak Cascades Intercity Passenger Rail

- Plan confirms long-term vision for high-speed rail and incremental approach to implementation.
- Near-term priorities:
 - Deliver funded projects and implement service improvements in 2017.
 - Focus on existing service: manage costs; improve quality and customer experience to increase ridership and revenue.
 - Consider new operating models such as, “limited” schedules to optimize the service.



Amtrak Cascades at the International Border. June 29, 2011.

AaverageJoe/Michael Chu. Flickr. April 16, 2013.

www.flickr.com/photos/mikechu/5888854439/

Intercity Rail Connecting Major Economic Centers



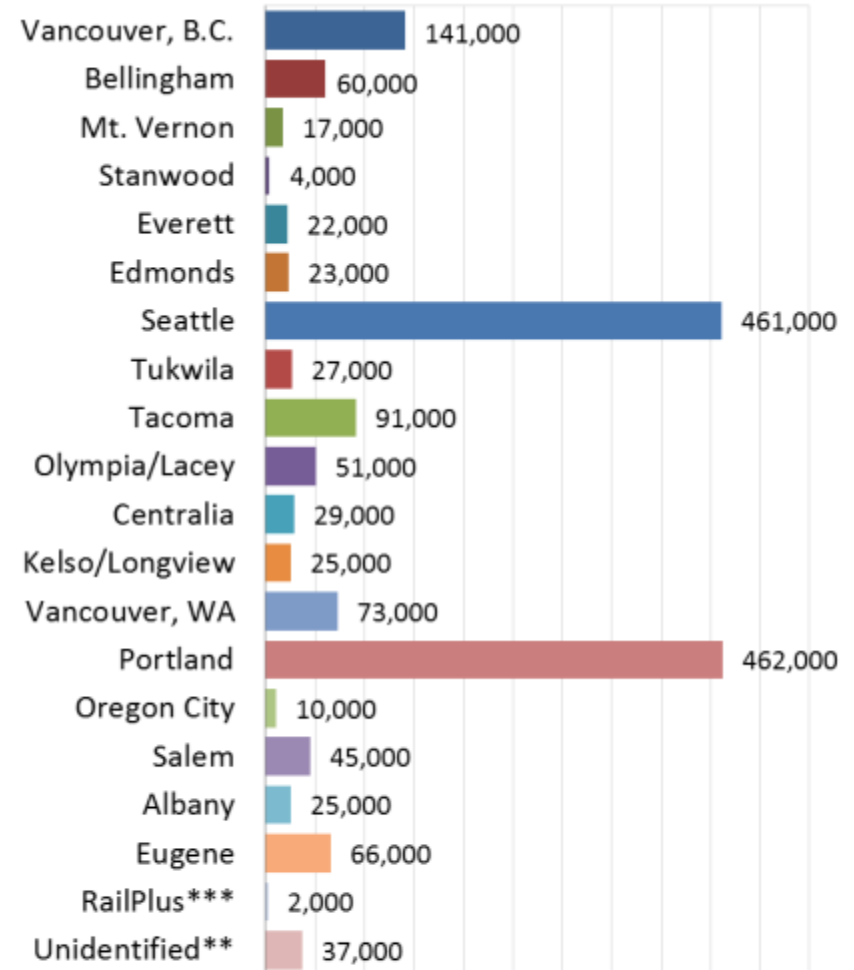
Vancouver, B.C. (Metro)
 2.5 million residents
 141,000 on/off



Seattle (Metro)
 3.5 million residents
 461,000 on/off



Portland (Metro)
 2.3 million residents
 462,000 on/off



*On-Offs are a measurement of how many passengers got on and off the train at each station.

**Unidentified passengers either deferred their trip to another day or were unidentified by Amtrak.

***RailPlus are riders transferring from Sound Transit to Amtrak Cascades.

High-Speed Rail Capital Investments

- Federal high-speed rail funds: \$794.9 million
- Program goal of more frequent and reliable Amtrak Cascades service
 - 2 additional round trips Seattle to Portland (total of 6)
 - Improved on-time performance to 88%
 - 10-minute savings per trip
- 20 projects in Washington
- Jobs for skilled construction and operations for railroad crews and regional contractors
- Federal funds must be spent by 2017.



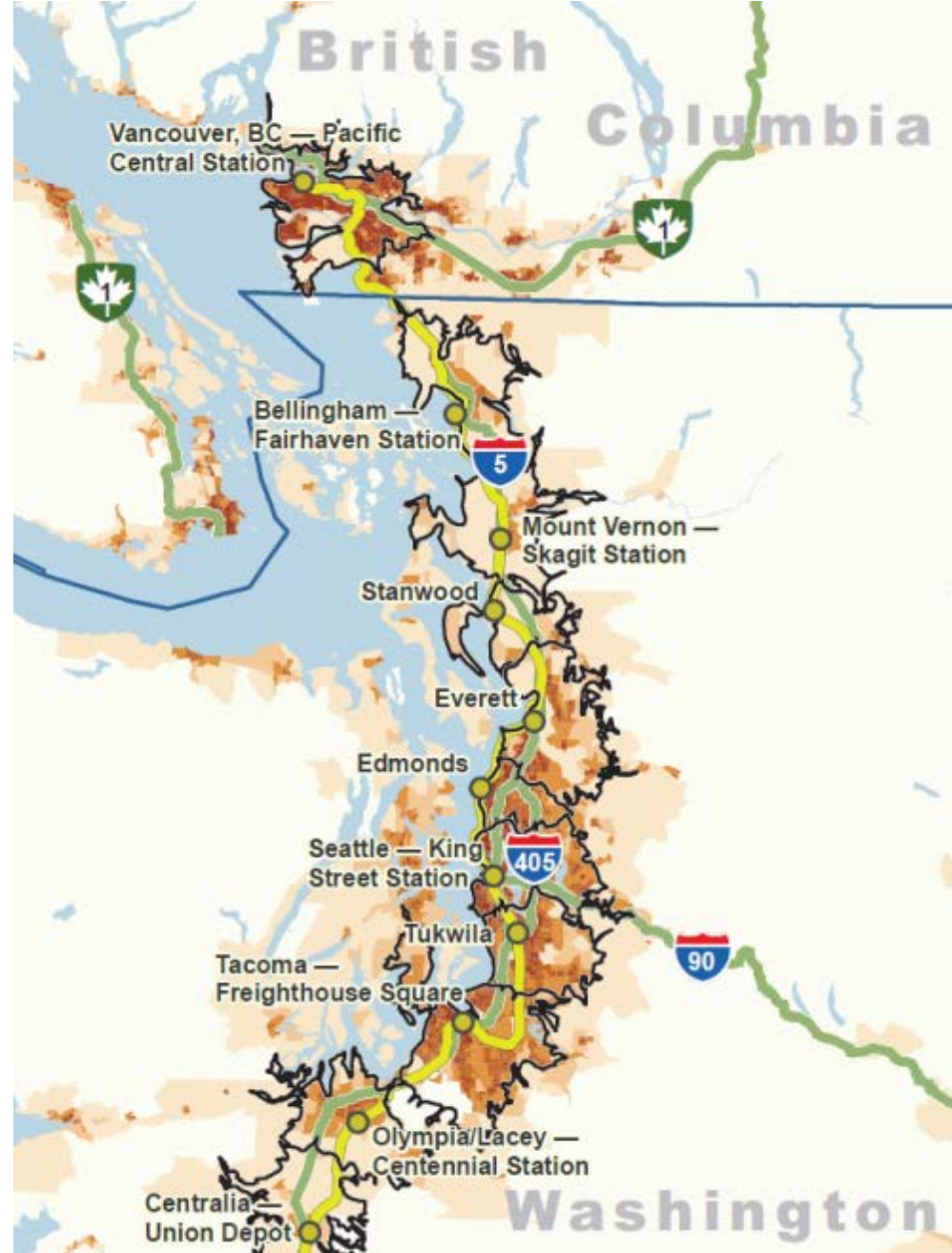
Cross-Border Service is Key to Future Growth

Strengths:

- Strong anchors in population centers
- Supports regional efforts to improve international travel and trade

Key challenges:

- Passenger inconvenience due to southbound stop at the border
- Slow travel speeds due to infrastructure needs north of the U.S. border
- Strategies for developing and strengthening operating partnerships between states and province in response to funding needs



Population density adjacent to Amtrak Cascades stations, 2010/2011

Preclearance for Amtrak Cascades

Saves 10 minutes by eliminating southbound international border train stop

Results:

- Reduced travel time
- Improved on-time performance
- Reduces risk of unanticipated delays (can be up to 60 mins)

Benefits:

- Improves convenience for passengers
- Makes international rail travel a stronger component of the transportation system
- Supports strategy to increase ridership in our 2nd largest market

Beyond the Border: full preclearance at Vancouver, B.C. for passenger rail



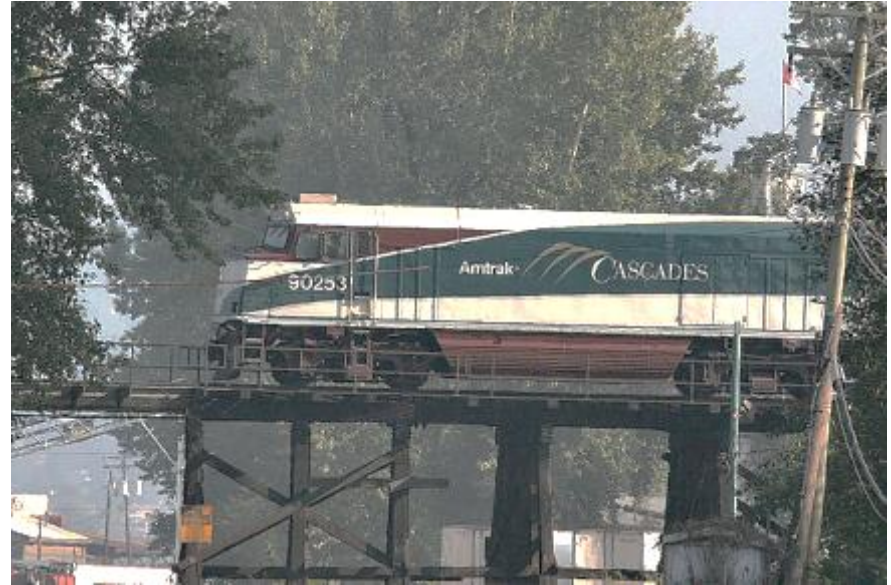
Cross Border Collaboration

Washington and British Columbia

Joint Transportation Executive Council,
established by Governor and Premier

Current work program focus:

- Continued joint advocacy requesting the implementation of integrated customs and immigration preclearance pre-clearance for passenger rail in Vancouver, B.C. per the stated commitment in the joint federal “Beyond the Border” Action Plan
- Assess responses to financial operating pressures resulting from the elimination of U.S. Federal Amtrak funding. Options include increasing fares, reducing service, or increasing partner contributions.
- Deliver capital improvement projects



*Amtrak Cascades over the Fraser Bridge heading to Vancouver, B.C. Rog45/Roger.
Boats N Stuff - Brownsville - Surrey BC. 28 September 2006. Flickr. April 16, 2013.
www.flickr.com/photos/rog45/256066529/*

Priorities and Next Steps

- Deliver funded projects.
- Maintain and preserve existing infrastructure.
- Establish short line system inventory.
- Manage costs and maintain revenues for Amtrak Cascades.
- Incorporate plan results into Freight Mobility Plan and Washington Transportation Plan.
- Continue collaborative planning with stakeholders and partners to refine and focus investment priorities.
- Initiate scoping and project development to prepare for future funding opportunities.



Contact Information

Kerri Woehler

Rail Operations Program Manager
360.705.6902 or
woehlek@wsdot.wa.gov

www.wsdot.wa.gov/rail

Jason Beloso

Rail Planning Manager
206.464.1259 or
belosoj@wsdot.wa.gov

