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*1 June 2016*

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*13 June 2016*

Date

## Station Stop Policy for Amtrak Cascades Service

### I. Introduction

#### A. Purpose

This Policy Statement establishes an objective method to assist in future decision-making about adding, removing or skipping stops for Amtrak Cascades service. This Policy Statement applies to intercity passenger rail service on the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor (PNWRC) as administered by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).

#### B. Background

Amtrak Cascades provides intercity passenger rail service on the PNWRC that runs between Vancouver, British Columbia and Eugene, Oregon, via Seattle, Washington and Portland, Oregon. With 18 station stops along the 467-mile route, Amtrak Cascades service plays a vital role in the Pacific Northwest's multimodal transportation system and provides an important transportation option for regional travelers travelling along the I-5 corridor.

Funding for Amtrak Cascades service changed dramatically with implementation of the U.S. Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 ([PRIIA 209](#)), which eliminated federal funding as of October 1, 2013. Today, Washington and Oregon jointly fund Amtrak Cascades service through ticket revenue and state sponsorship.

Thorough planning helped establish existing service and set future direction for intercity passenger rail. Also, significant capital investments in critical rail infrastructure improvements and equipment, scheduled for completion in 2017, will further expand travel choices and foster economic growth across Washington and Oregon. These decisions and obligations come with commitments that require future projects, improvements and additions or changes to station stops to align with these investments.

WSDOT and ODOT operate under a Corridor Management Workplan designed as a unified management framework to maximize existing resources and ensure responsible use of public investments. This policy is consistent with a corridor management approach and strategic business directions of the agencies.

### II. Policy Statement

It is the responsibility of the PNWRC administrators to evaluate proposals that add, remove or skip station stops and determine the value and benefit to the Amtrak Cascades corridor.

### III. Information to Carry Out This Policy Statement

- A. WSDOT and ODOT are working to manage their respective services together as a unified corridor. Rail operating budgets are dynamic and subject to legislative approval. The agencies will work together to achieve and maintain service goals, commitments and minimize taxpayer subsidies.
- B. Station stop proposals (adding, removing or skipping stops) will be evaluated based on benefits and disadvantages for the entire corridor using the following criteria: Consistency with Statewide, Regional and Local Transportation Plans; Operational Feasibility; Customer and Travel Demand; Station Suitability; Multimodal and Societal Benefits; and Fiscal Viability.
- C. The addition, removal or skipping of a station stop should not degrade service or increase net cost for WSDOT, ODOT, Sound Transit, BNSF Railway (BNSF), Union Pacific (UP), Amtrak or other partners in intercity passenger rail service. Proponents are expected to participate in the costs to operate and maintain station stops.
- D. Rail budgets at WSDOT and ODOT are insufficient for conducting feasibility studies without additional funds. Proponents are expected to provide funding for feasibility studies.
- E. Proposals will be evaluated as they are submitted. Implementation of proposals should be coordinated with other major service changes pursuant to PNWRC determination.

### IV. Additional Guidance

In support of the policy and to assist in the development of station stop proposals, a guidance document is provided to clarify expectations and describe the process and information needed to inform decision-making. The Station Stop Policy Guidance Document is found on our website: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/StationStopPolicy.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/StationStopPolicy.htm).

### V. Updates

Future amendments would be reviewed through State Rail Plan updates.

### VI. Contact for More Information

Washington State Department of Transportation, Rail, Freight, and Ports Division  
360.705.7900 | [rail@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:rail@wsdot.wa.gov)  
Oregon Department of Transportation, Rail and Public Transit Division  
503.986.4321 | [passengerrail@odot.state.or.us](mailto:passengerrail@odot.state.or.us)

#### Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information

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#### Title VI Notice to Public

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For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact WSDOT's OEO Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7082 or ODOT's Office of Civil Rights Intermodal Title VI Coordinator at (503) 986-3169.