

Seamless, Statewide Transportation

All Aboard Washington
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March 7, 2022

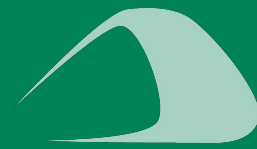
**IT TAKES
TRANSPORTATION**

What is World-Class Transportation?



It's More Than Just Trains





It Really Boils Down to One Simple Question

**Is it reasonably easy to
get from here to there?**

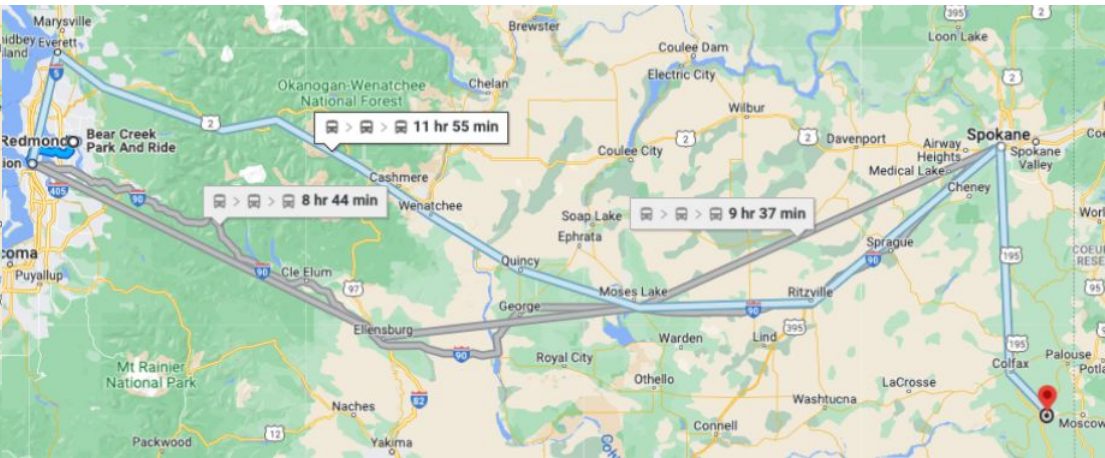
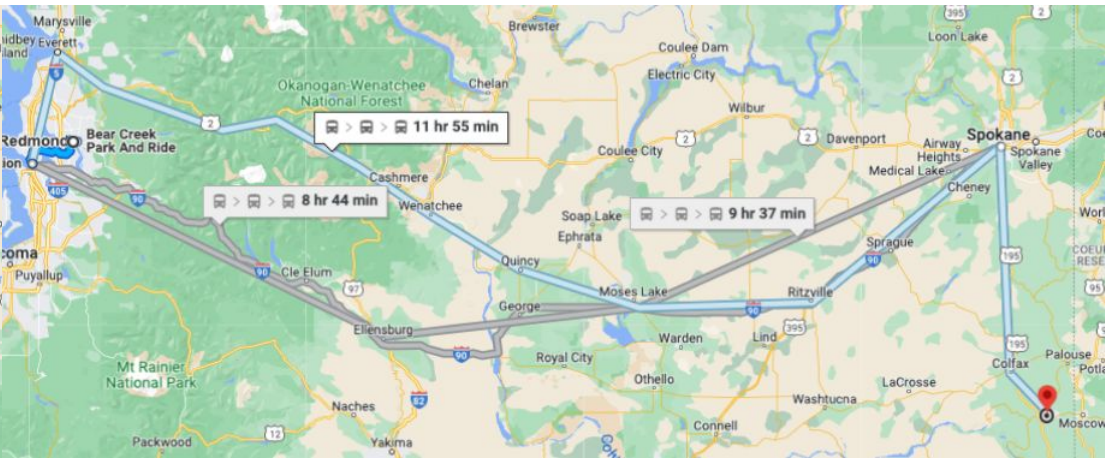
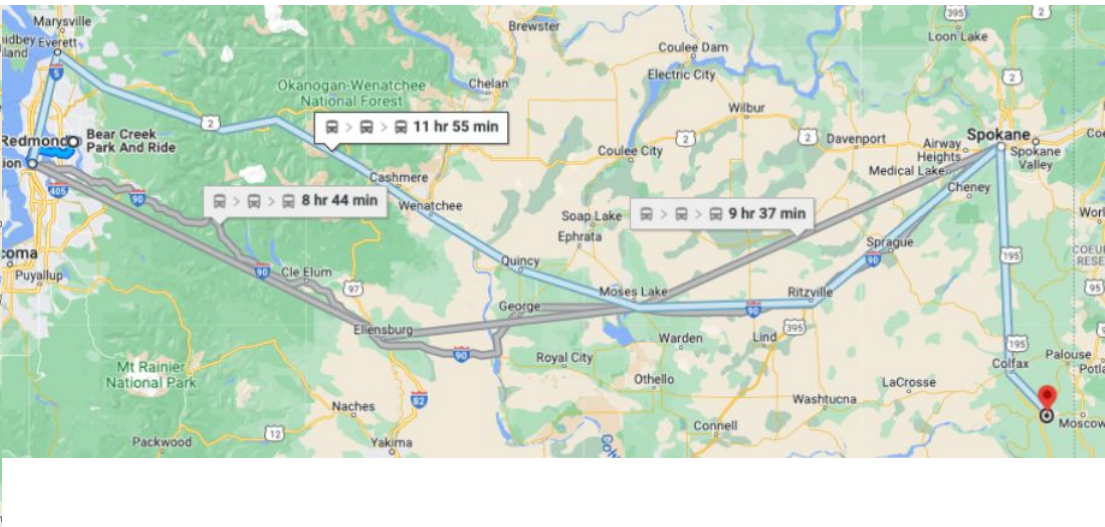
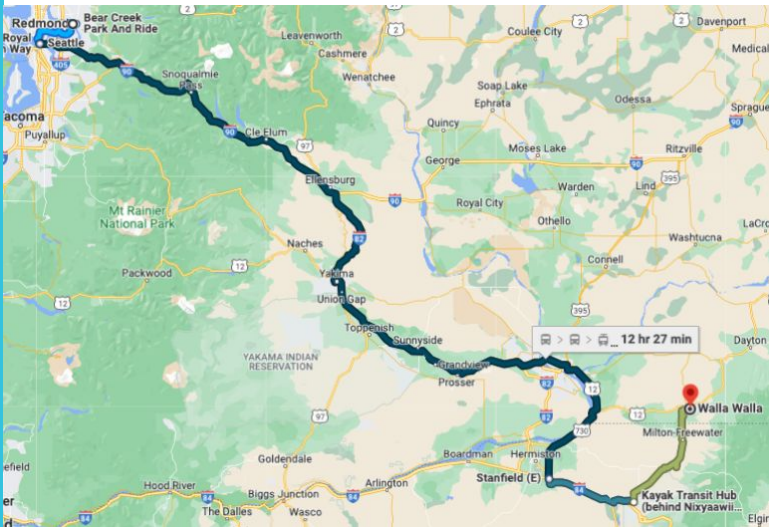
Far Too Often, It Isn't Easy At All

Walla Walla: 12 hours 17 minutes
(leaving at 6:19 AM)

Pullman: 11 hours 55 minutes
(leaving at 7:20 AM)

Driving: 4 hours 25 minutes

4 hours 45 minutes

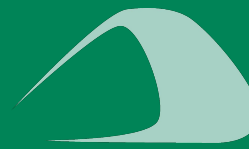


The Transportation Future Should Run on Rails

We need more frequent and faster trains running as soon as possible on existing infrastructure.

As called for in state law RCW 47.79 passed by the Legislature in 1993:

The legislature finds that high-speed ground transportation offers a **safer, more efficient, and environmentally responsible** alternative to increasing highway capacity. High-speed ground transportation can complement and enhance existing air transportation systems. High-speed ground transportation can be compatible with growth management plans in counties and cities served by such a system. Further, high-speed ground transportation offers a reliable, all-weather service capable of significant energy savings over other intercity modes.



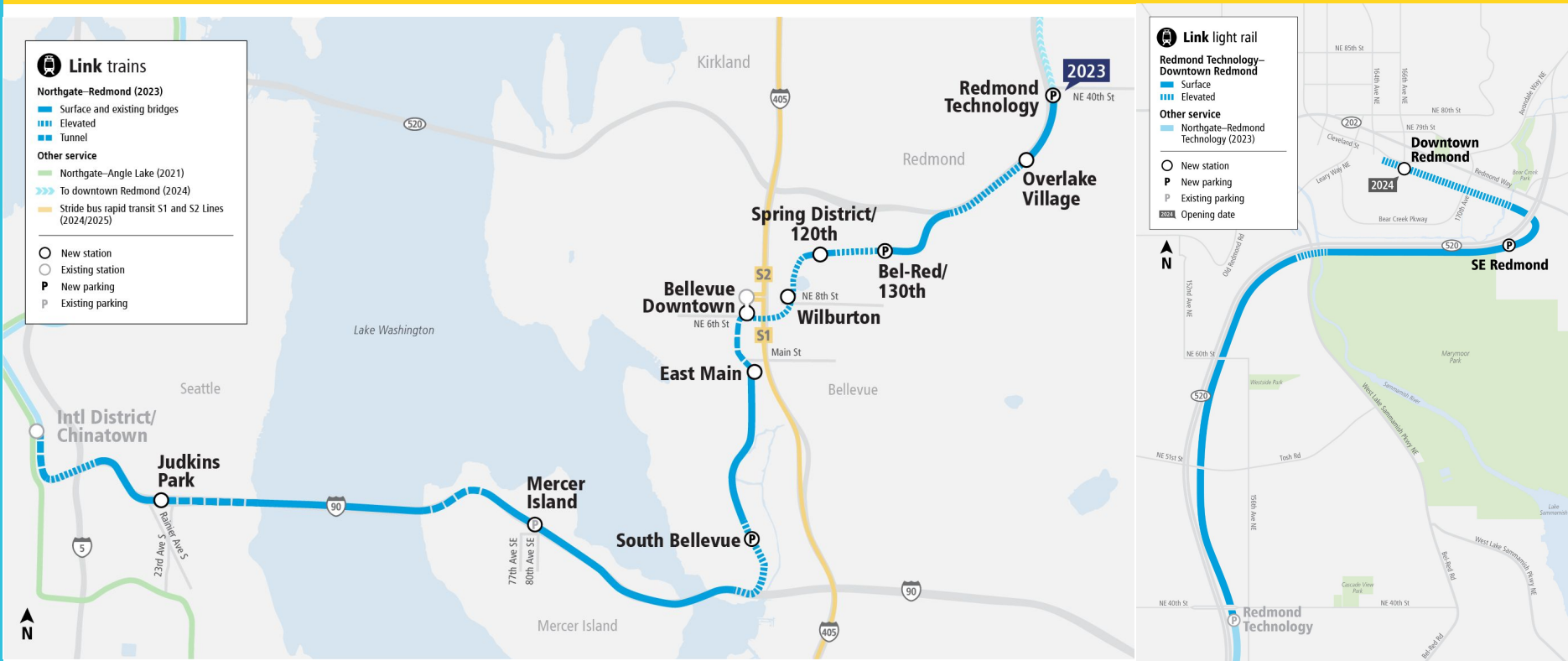
Expand Options Available Today

- Amtrak *Cascades* to Eugene, Portland, and Vancouver, BC (restarting soon)
- *Sounder* to Everett and Tacoma
- Amtrak *Coast Starlight* to Los Angeles
- Amtrak *Empire Builder* to Chicago

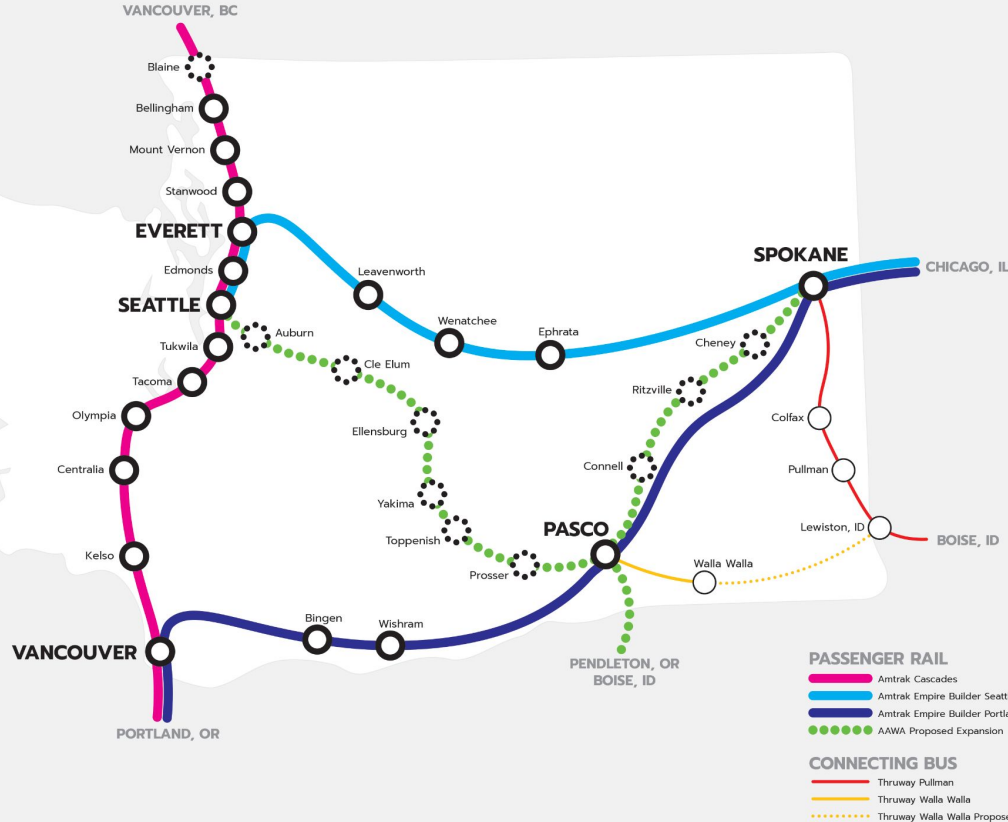




Easier Local Connections Coming Soon



WASHINGTON VISION MAP



Our Vision

- **Add East-West Service, Additional Frequencies, New Stations and Connecting Buses**
- Frequent Amtrak trains crossing the entire Northwest
- More stations
- A competitive freight rail system
- Better connections to other modes

Start planning now for high-speed rail in twenty years

We Support High Speed Rail as Part of an Integrated System

- Almost all high-speed rail systems—including South Korea, Japan and most of Europe—have been built on a foundation of a robust conventional rail system.
- The High Speed Rail Alliance envisions an integrated network approach including high-speed, regional and shared-use lines.

Our Vision

A transportation network that:

- Provides **seamless**, door-to-door connectivity for our region's people and goods
- Offers **economic, environmental, and equity benefits** to all communities

Economy, Environment, Equity

Rail is an ideal option for addressing ‘the 3 Es’



Economy

Intercity passenger trains help strengthen local economies across the Northwest.



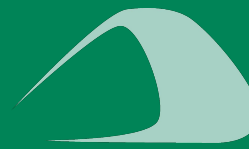
Environment

Intercity passenger trains provide low-emissions regional transportation.



Equity

Intercity passenger trains connect communities small and large.



Economic Benefits

Easy travel options help strengthen local economies throughout the Northwest.

On average, communities receive \$84 per day-trip visitor, and \$366 per overnight visitor, according to Experience Washington.

**ECONOMIC JUSTICE
TAKES TRANSPORTATION**

Environmental Benefits

Rail is the optimal low-impact freight and passenger ground transportation option.

Rail does not contribute to [salmon die-off related to tires.](#)



Equity Benefits

A good freight and passenger rail network contributes to high quality of life in our region for everyone.

- **Improves reach** of local services
- **Expands access** for all communities



**A BETTER FUTURE TAKES
TRANSPORTATION**

AAWA's Legislative Priorities

1. **Restore Pre-Pandemic Rail Services**
2. **Expand Research on a Complete, Statewide Passenger and Freight Rail Network**
 - Follow in [Virginia's footsteps](#)
3. **Form a Washington Rail Advisory Committee**
 - Give rail users and stakeholders a louder voice, similar to the [Ferry Riders Opinion Group](#) and [organizations in other states](#)
4. **Improve Rail Safety**
 - [HB 1418](#)

AAWA's Legislative Priorities

5. **Activate County Rail Districts**

County rail districts (CRDs), established under RCW 36.60, are an option for funding rail infrastructure improvements in Washington.

6. **Improve Regional Corridor Management**

Improving coordination between ODOT and WSDOT will help *Cascades* build upon the success it has experienced over the past several years.

7. **Create a Northwest Rail Compact**

Regional Rail Compacts are authorized by Sec. 22306 of the Investment in Infrastructure and Jobs Act (IIJA). Objectives of such a compact are initially to:

- Study restoration of Pioneer route
- Study of north-south rail connections
- Study of Thruway and local bus connections

How You Can Help

- 1. Ask Legislators to Support Local Match Funding for IIJA**
 - Flexible match funds prepare us for federal grants
- 2. Rethink the Conversation on Transportation and Access**
 - Be open-minded, discuss a broad list of ideas
- 3. Priority Projects List**
 - Locally-supported projects to bring to Olympia
- 4. Support AAWA!**

How You Can Help

5. **Ask Other Transportation, Environmental, and Health Care Groups to [Endorse Our Joint Statement](#)**
6. **Help Expand Our Community Coalitions**
 - [It Takes Transportation](#) supports a transformative approach to transportation that meets our needs for health, safety, and affordability, and addresses climate, social, and economic justice.
 - [Week Without Driving](#) asks: what is it like to try to get around your community without driving yourself?
 - [Washington Can't Wait](#) is an initiative to fight for action on climate change, environmental justice, and housing equity.
7. **Invite AAWA to speak to your group about [our vision](#). [Contact us!](#)**

Thank You!

Support AAWA's Work and Vision

(360) 529-5552

aawa.us/support

