

# Seamless, Statewide Transportation

All Aboard Washington  
Charlie Hamilton, Hendrik de Kock  
May 19, 2022

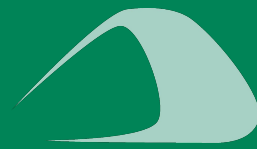
**IT TAKES  
TRANSPORTATION**

# What is World-Class Transportation?



# It's More Than Just Trains





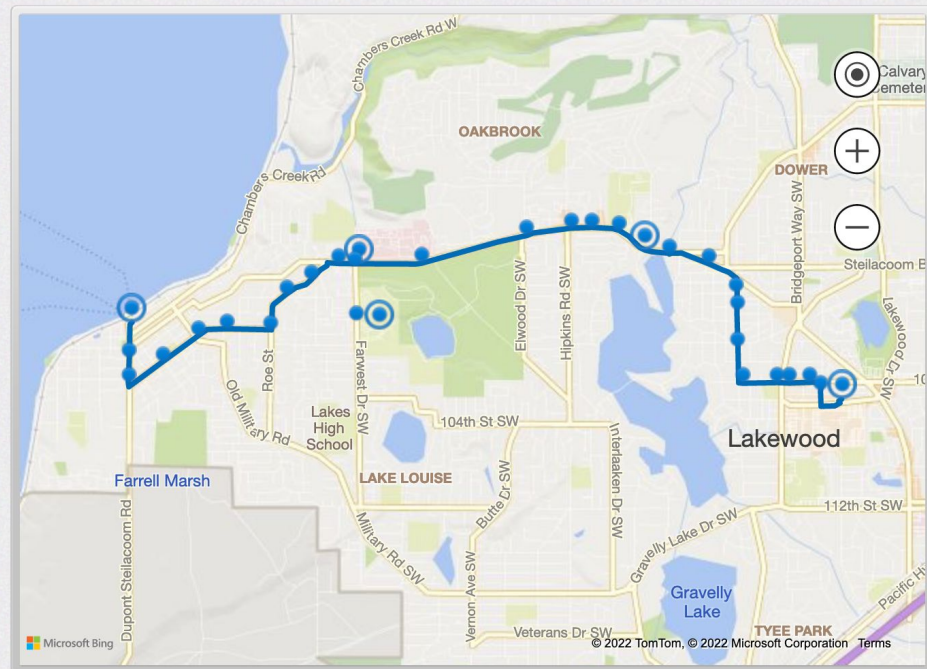
## **It Really Boils Down to One Simple Question**

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

# Far Too Often, It Isn't Easy At All

Pierce Transit runs once an hour!

## ROUTE 212 STEILACOOM



# Far Too Often, It Isn't Easy At All

Walla Walla: 12 hours 12 minutes (leaving at 10:05 AM)

Driving: 4 hours 36 minutes

Leave now ▾ [Options](#)

[Send directions to your phone](#)

**10:05 AM—10:17 PM** **12 hr 12 min**

212 > 574 > **FlixBus** > >






Coast Starlight > Empire Builder >

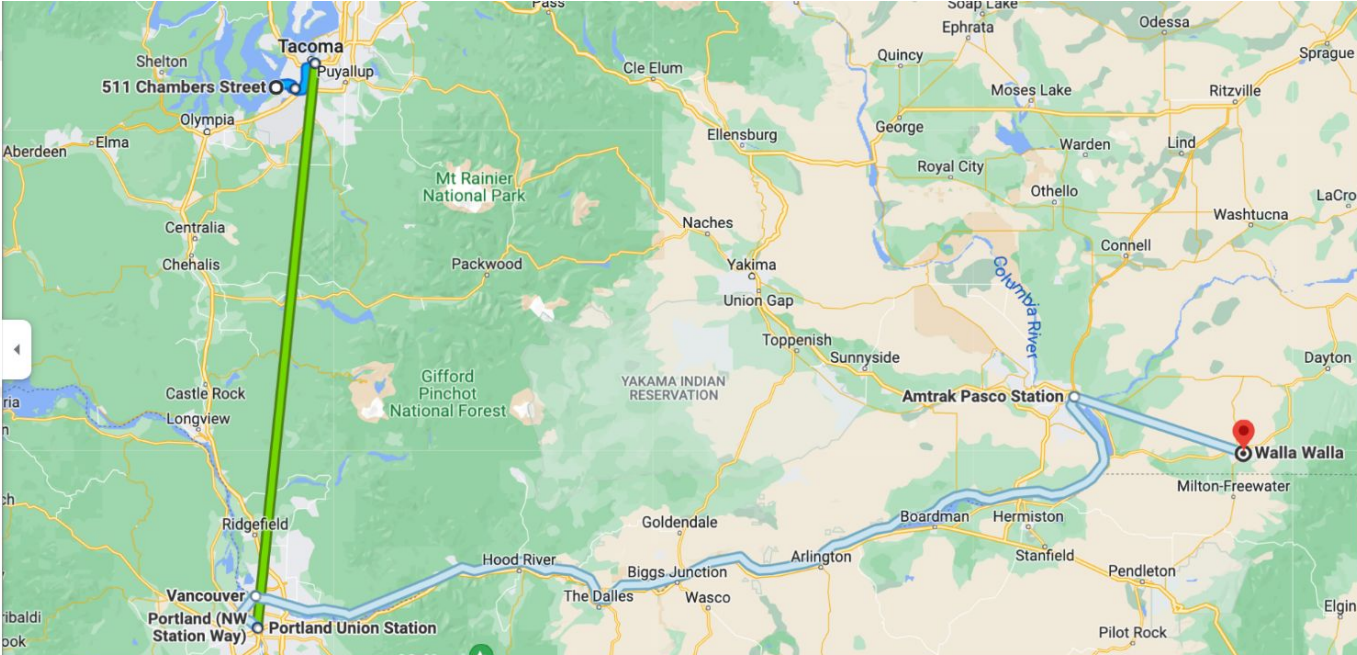
Amtrak Thruway Connecting Service

10:07 AM from Sequish St & Chambers St  
11 min

[Details](#)

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The map displays a route from Tacoma, WA to Walla Walla, WA. The route is highlighted in green and blue, showing a path through Olympia, Puyallup, and Pasco. Key locations marked include Shelton, Olympia, Puyallup, Tacoma, Cle Elum, Ellensburg, George, Royal City, Warden, Lind, Ritzville, Moses Lake, Ephrata, Soap Lake, Odessa, Sprague, LaCrosse, Washtucna, Connell, Dayton, Milton-Freewater, Walla Walla, Boardman, Hermiston, Stanfield, Pendleton, Elgin, Arlington, Goldendale, Hood River, Biggs Junction, Wasco, The Dalles, Vancouver, Ridgefield, Castle Rock, Longview, Chehalis, Centralia, Packwood, Gifford Pinchot National Forest, Yakima Indian Reservation, Union Gap, Toppenish, Sunnyside, and Naches. The Columbia River is also visible.

# Far Too Often, It Isn't Easy At All

Pullman: 19 hours 50 minutes (leaving 12:05 PM)

Driving: 4 hours 52 minutes

+ Leave now Options

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📱 Send directions to your phone

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🚆 12:05 PM—7:55 AM (Monday) 19 hr 50 min

🚆 212 > 🚆 4 > 🚆 594 > 🚆

🚆 Empire Builder > 🚆

🚆 Amtrak Thruway Connecting Service

12:07 PM from Sequish St & Chambers St  
 🚶 6 min

📄 Details

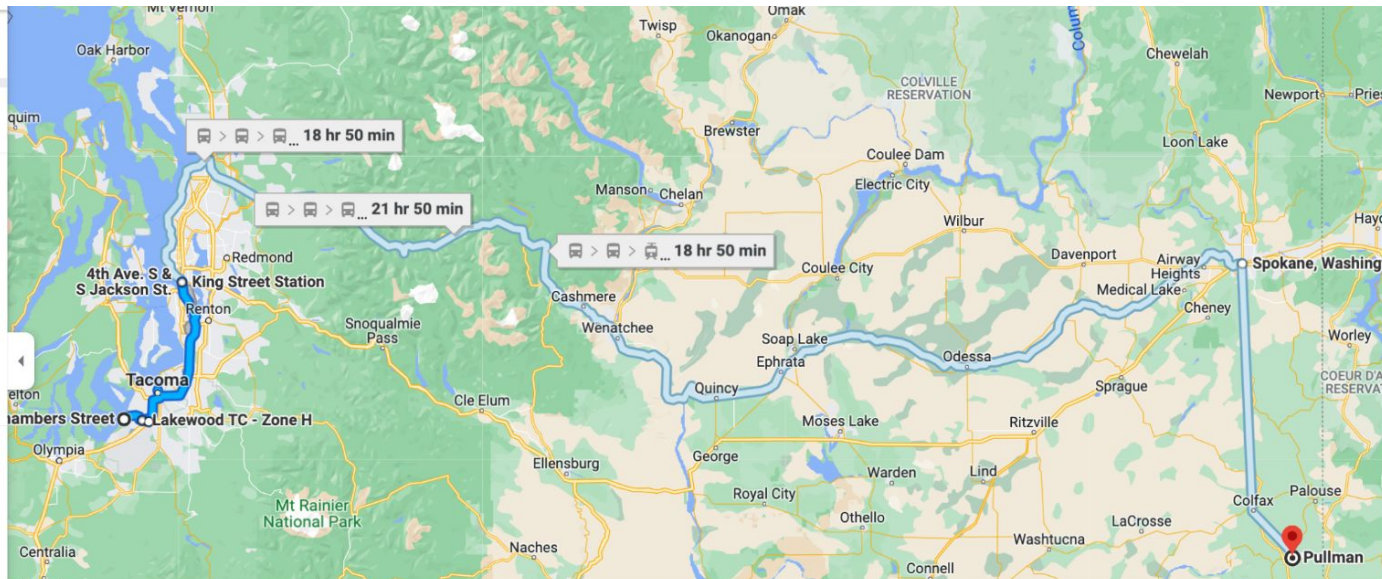
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🚆 1:05 PM—7:55 AM (Monday) 18 hr 50 min

🚆 212 > 🚆 574 > 🚆 594 > 🚆

🚆 Empire Builder > 🚆

🚆 Amtrak Thruway Connecting Service



# How About High Speed Rail?



Great, but will it get you to Pullman or Walla Walla, and sometime before 2040?





## We Support High Speed Rail as Part of an Integrated System

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

# How Do We Get To High-Speed Rail?

- Get more frequent and faster trains running as soon as possible on the existing infrastructure.
- Start planning now for high-speed rail in twenty years.

# Options Available Today

- Amtrak *Cascades* to Eugene, Portland
- *Sounder* to Everett and Tacoma
- Amtrak *Coast Starlight* to Los Angeles
- Amtrak *Empire Builder* to Chicago





# Cascades Delayed



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## Suspended for over two years, Amtrak delays train service to Canada until late 2022

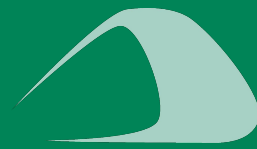
The route served Seattle, Edmonds, Everett, Stanwood, Mount Vernon, Bellingham and Vancouver, BC but has been suspended since May 2020.



## Our Vision

A transportation network that:

- Provides **seamless, door-to-door connectivity** to everyone in the region; and
- Offers **economic, environmental and equity benefits** to all, including *low-income, tribal, disability and rural communities*, locations where transportation **alternatives are limited**, and **those who cannot drive**

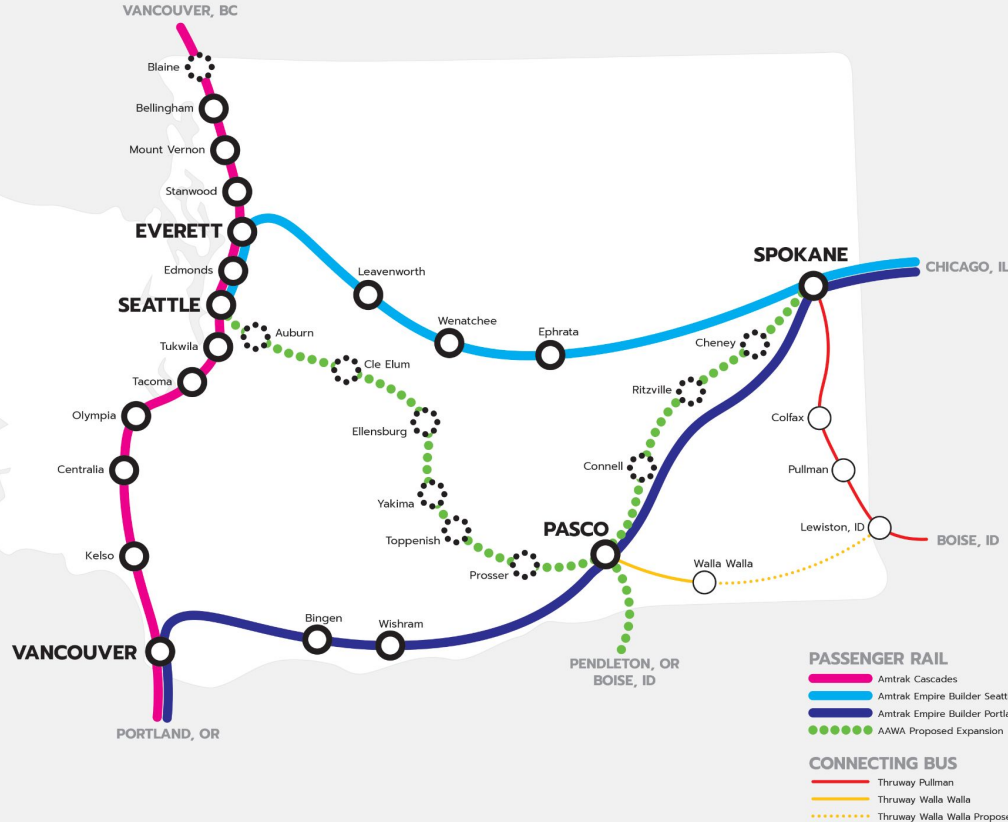


## Our Goal

We must build a transportation network that will allow anyone to get from their homes to where they need to go – **work, school, medical care, family and friends – even if they don't use a car.**

Non-drivers are a large and increasing fraction of the population, including **the young, the old, the disabled, the poor,** and those who are **concerned about the planet's future.**

# WASHINGTON VISION MAP



## Our Vision

- Frequent Amtrak trains crossing the entire Northwest
- More stations
- A competitive freight rail system
- Better connections to other modes

# 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

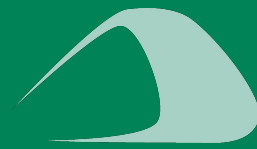
Intercity passenger trains provide low-emissions regional transportation.



## 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 2023 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](#)

# 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



# How You Can Help

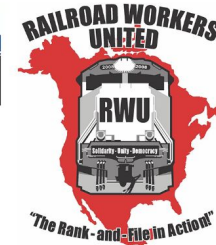
## Join Our Coalition



All Aboard  
**NORTHWEST**



Puget Sound  
Advocates for  
Retirement  
Action

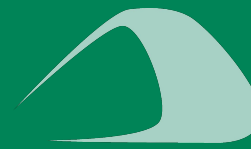


## Attend the AAWA Meeting & Auction

Centralia Depot

Saturday, May 21

Register at <https://www.aawa.us/events/>



# How You Can Help

Support AAWA's Work and Vision

**(360) 529-5552**

[aawa.us/support](http://aawa.us/support)

