

2021 Train Trek to Ellensburg



AAWA
ALL ABOARD **WASHINGTON**

August 21, 2021

Patrick Carnahan, Co-Executive Director
Charles Hamilton, Co-Executive Director



2021 Train Trek

Thursday, August 12

- [Edmonds](#)
- [Everett](#)

Friday, August 13

- [Leavenworth](#)
- [Wenatchee](#)

Saturday, August 14

- [Yakima](#)
- [Toppenish](#)
- [Tri-Cities](#)

Sunday, August 15

- [Walla Walla](#)
- [Clarkston-Lewiston](#)

Wednesday, August 18

- Pacific Northwest Rail Forum Big Sky, MT

Thursday, August 19

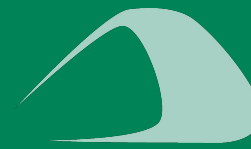
- [Spokane](#)

Friday, August 20

- [Cheney](#)
- [Ritzville](#)

Saturday, August 21

- [Ellensburg](#)
- [Cle Elum: AAWA Annual Picnic](#)



2021 Train Trek Sponsors



**BIG SKY
PASSENGER
RAIL AUTHORITY**

- Matt Boehnke
- John Bowen
- Boyce Burdick
- John Carlin
- David Clinton
- Edward Cohen
- John Crowley
- Carl Fowler
- Maradel Gale
- Larry Glickfeld
- Robert Gorski
- Barry Green
- Glenda Hanson
- Ford Hill
- Horace Horton
- Bill Jenkin
- Liz Knapke
- Robert Krebs
- Bob Lawrence
- Duncan McRayde
- Mark Meyer
- In Memory of Jim Neal
- Janice Rudnitski
- Maricela Sanchez
- Riley Shewak
- John R. Smith
- Jack Staples
- Thomas & Lael White
- Gary Wirt
- Warren Yee
- Larry Yok

Who is All Aboard Washington?

- Champions of better passenger and freight rail service in the Pacific Northwest for over 40 years
- Nonprofit advocacy organization of citizens, businesses, and other goal-oriented groups



What We'll Talk About Today

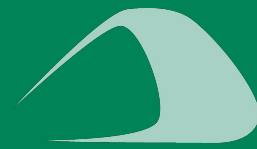
1. Connecting Our '3 Es' to Transportation
2. AAWA's Current Efforts
 - a. East-West Stampede Pass Rail Service
 - b. Restoring and Improving *Cascades* Service
3. How You Can Help

What is World-Class Transportation?



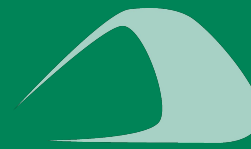
It's More Than Just Trains



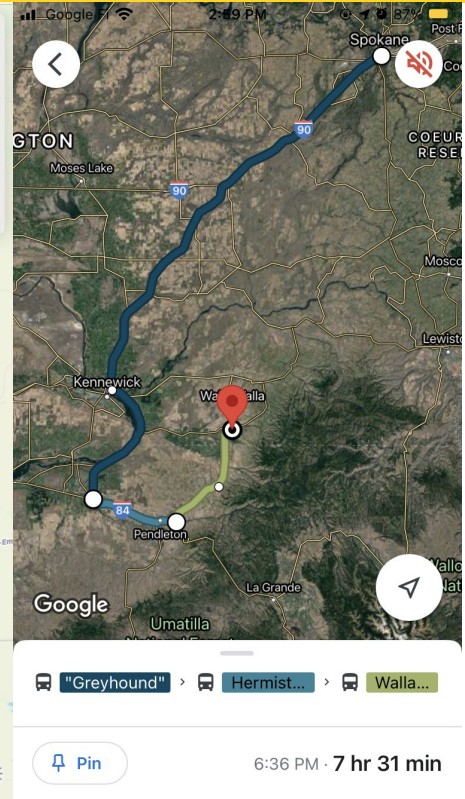
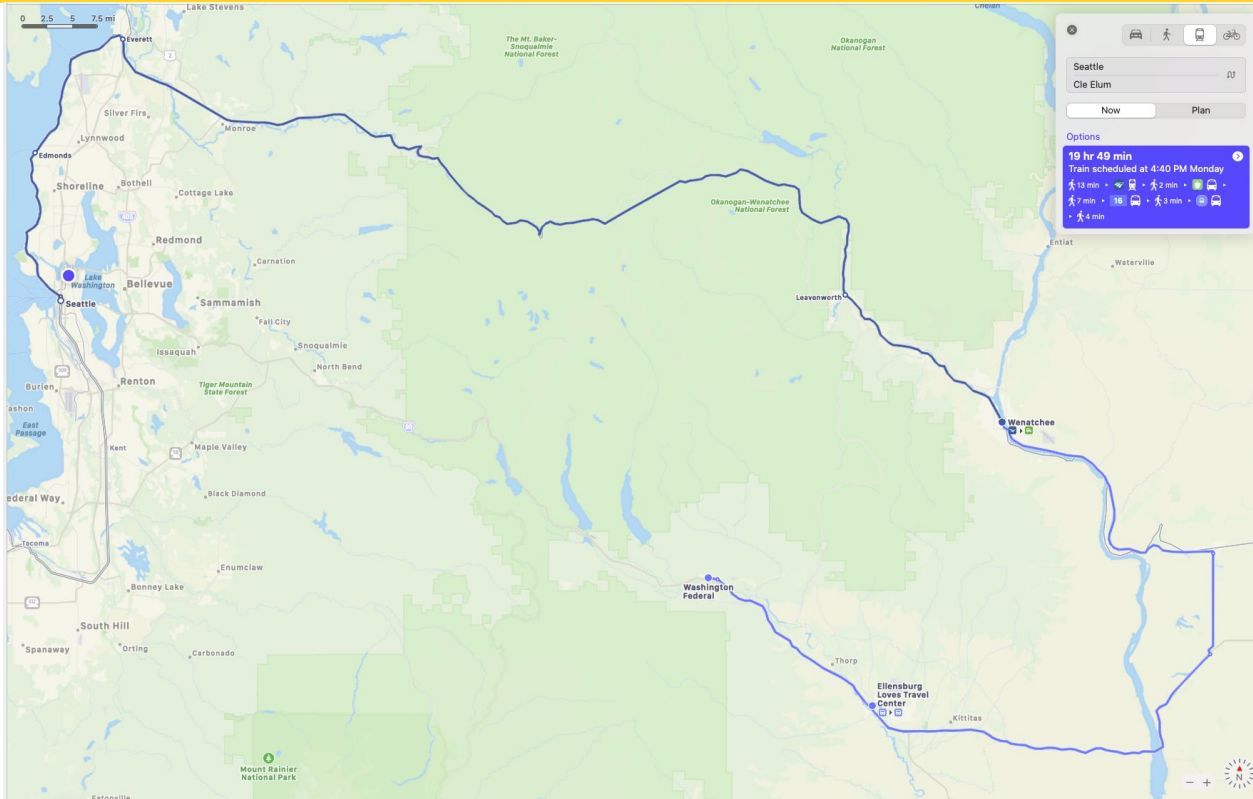


It Really Boils Down to One Simple Question

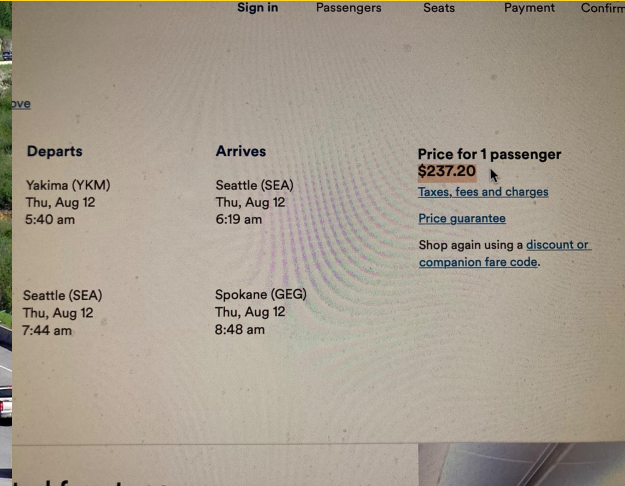
**Is it reasonably easy to
get from here to there?**



Most of the Time, It Isn't...



Today's Reality in Central Washington



Tire chains, traffic, and an empty wallet.
Aren't you looking forward to your next trip?

Central Washington Transportation Issues

- East-West trains via Stampede Pass were discontinued in 1981
 - Seattle *Empire Builder* service was rerouted over Stevens Pass
- Greyhound bus service has declined across the Northwest
- SeaTac charter buses are costly
- Flights are expensive and generally lack direct routing
- Many communities lack Amtrak service despite proximity to lines

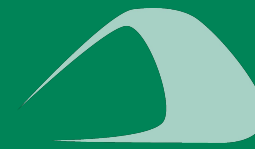


The Pandemic Made Things Worse

During the pandemic, Amtrak service was cut statewide:

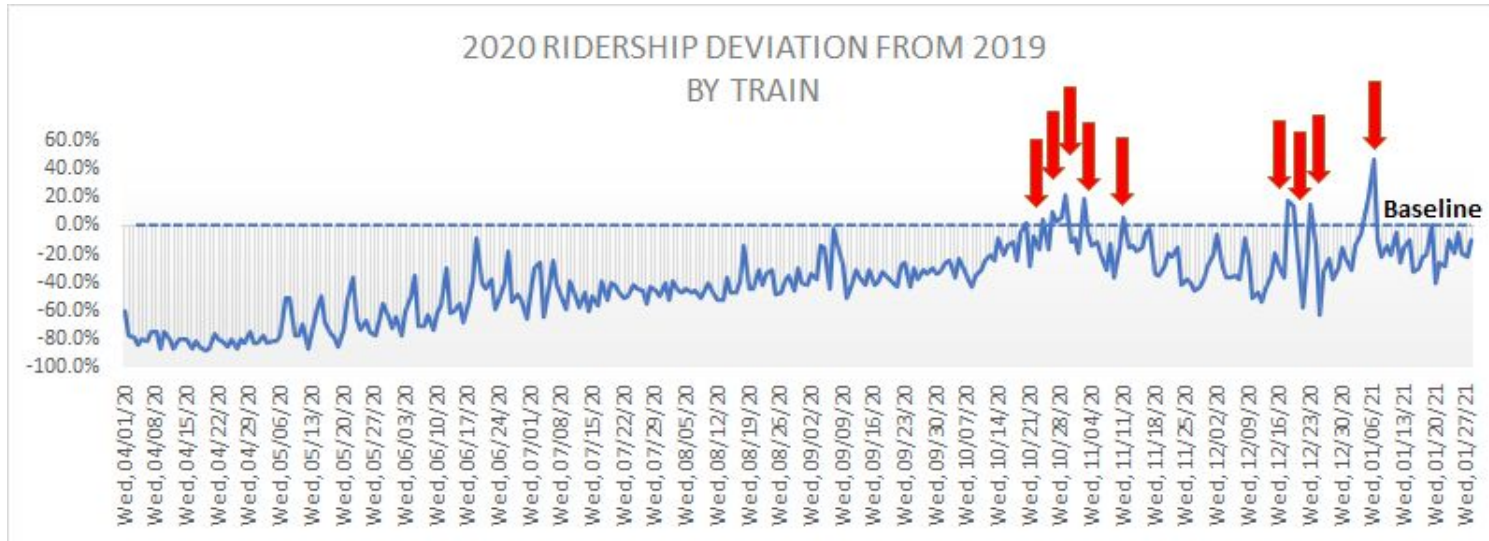
- Amtrak *Cascades* was **discontinued entirely** north of Seattle, (to Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties); Seattle - Eugene service was cut to once daily (now 3 times daily)
- *Empire Builder* to Spokane and *Coast Starlight* to Los Angeles were cut to 3 times weekly (now daily)





Ridership is Recovering!

Trains today are performing much like trains pre-pandemic, and in a **few cases**, outperforming them



The Need for Better Intercity Trains

Passenger 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.

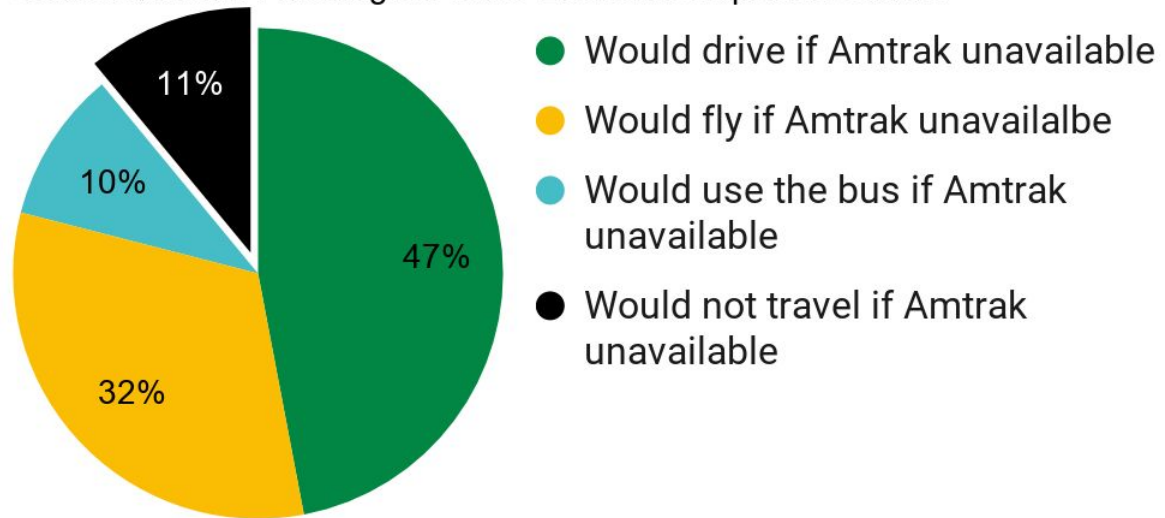
Boosting Local & Regional Economies

Better *Cascades* trains facilitate and induce regional travel

- About **11% of train riders in WA would not have traveled** if the train wasn't available to them

Passengers Without Trains Don't Just Take the Bus

Source: Amtrak Washington State Economic Impact Brochure



Boosting Local & Regional Economies

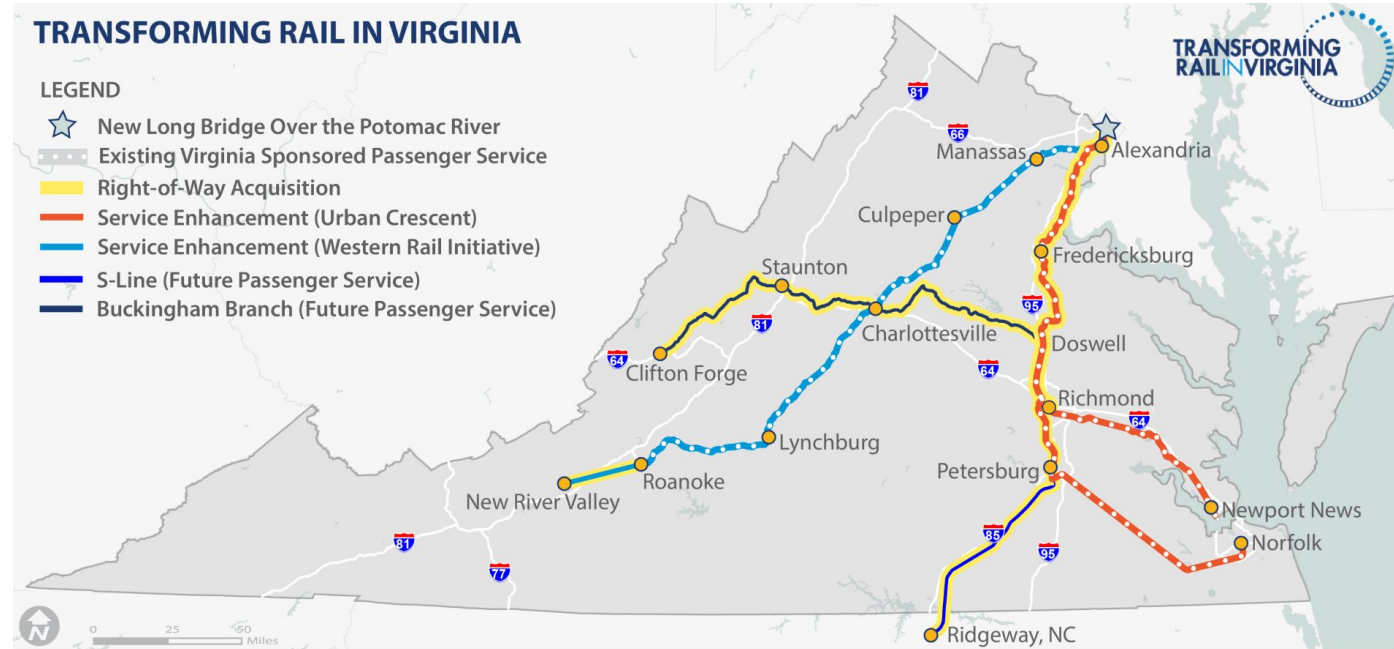
Induced travel is valuable to WA communities

- \$84 per day-trip visitor
- \$366 per overnight visitor
- \$7m tourist spending impact of Stampede Pass East-West passenger train service

Emphasizing Equity & Accessibility

Fun fact: some people live outside of Seattle!

Puget Sound communities aren't the only ones who benefit from better rail and transit.



Emphasizing Equity & Accessibility



Emphasizing Equity & Accessibility

AAWA is encouraging the state to implement recommendations from several plans and studies:

- Connect **local public transit** more conveniently with the intercity transportation network
- Provide **convenient and equitable rail service** throughout the state, both in new East-West and existing North-South *Cascades* corridors



© The Olympian

- Less U.S. DOT emphasis on **travel time saved**, more on **safety & interconnectivity**

Fast Environment & Climate Action

We have less than 10 years to cut emissions by **45% of 2010 levels**.

Do we have enough time to keep kicking the can like usual?

The New York Times

Climate and Environment > | [IPCC Report](#) | [Resilience Funding](#) | [Wildfire Tracker](#) | [F.A.Q.'s](#)

A Hotter Future Is Certain, Climate Panel Warns. But How Hot Is Up to Us.

Some devastating impacts of global warming are now unavoidable, a major new scientific report finds. But there is still a short window to stop things from getting even worse.

       1240



The Dixie Fire, which destroyed one town and forced thousands to flee their homes in

Top Priority: Getting Out of Our Cars

Transportation: 29% of U.S. emissions

Autos: 82% of transportation emissions



AAWA's Vision

With prudent short-term investments, we believe Washington State can **revive its rail revolution** and get back on track toward **creating a truly world-class transportation network**.

Our vision has been [published](#) in [Speedlines](#), a newsletter of the American Public Transportation Association.

REVIVING A RAIL REVOLUTION:

Contributed by: Patrick Carnahan – All Aboard Washington

HOW WASHINGTON STATE CAN GET BACK ON TRACK TOWARD CREATING A WORLD-CLASS PASSENGER RAIL NETWORK

Amidst the fallout of the coronavirus pandemic, interest in passenger rail has increased markedly across the United States. With an enthusiastically pro-rail federal administration now in power, talk of our nation's "second great rairoadding revolution" has begun among advocates and transit blogs from coast to coast. But is this only our second, or even third, attempt at such a revolution? What about the one that started in the Pacific Northwest about 30 years ago, the one that aimed to create the most advanced rail system in North America?

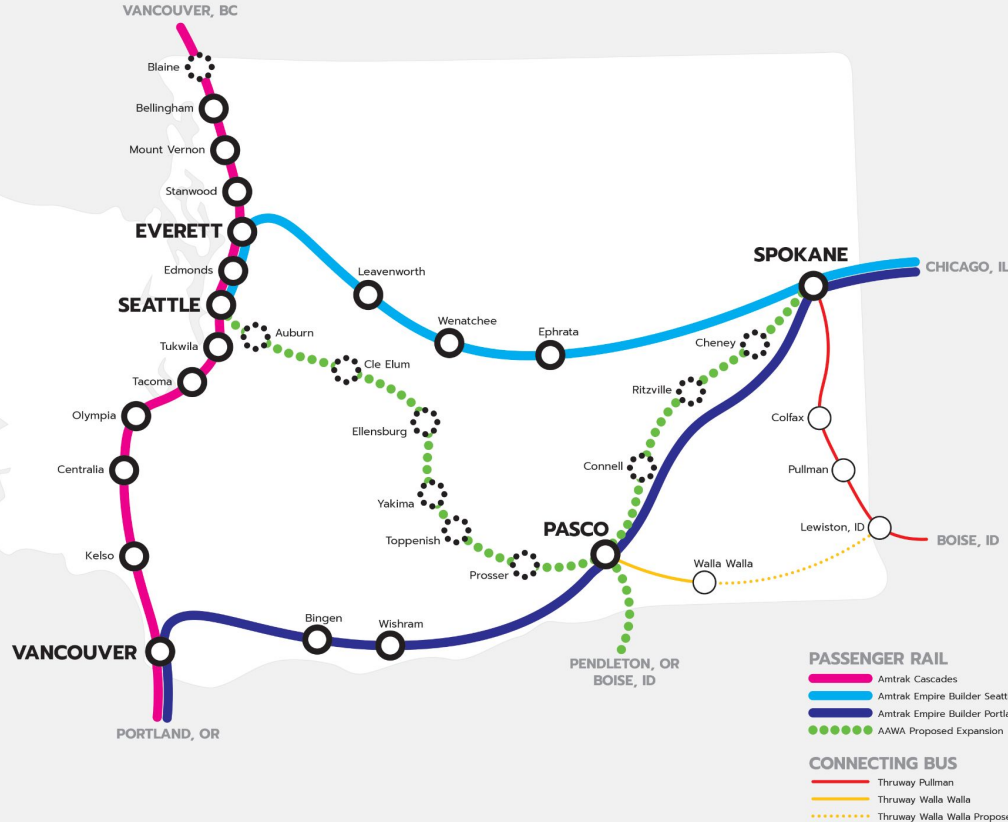
WHERE IT STARTED

It was the early 1990s, and change was afoot in Western Washington. Many parts of the region were still recovering from the last recession in the 1980s, in addition to earlier declines of Boeing's space program and the logging industry. Bellevue and Redmond were feeling the impacts of Microsoft's meteoric rise. Amazon didn't even exist yet, but Washington's leaders were taking proactive steps to accommodate major economic and population growth. There was a new awareness of the environmental pollution caused by car dependence and the impossibility of "building our way out of" congestion with more highway lanes. The state was

steadily easing its way into implementing the 1990 Growth Management Act and several Commute Trip Reduction provisions, all to mitigate the impacts of a projected population boom in the Puget Sound. In 1991, the Washington State Legislature directed that a comprehensive assessment be made of the feasibility of developing a statewide 'High Speed Ground Transportation' (HSGT) system. The next year, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) designated the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor, which runs through the heart of Seattle, as a high-speed rail (HSR) corridor.

With the results of the earlier HSGT study in, the 1993 Washington State Legislature passed RCW 47.79 and created something revolutionary: a goal to build a regional HSR network connecting Seattle with Portland, Vancouver, BC, and Spokane by 2030. As recommended by the study, Washington and Oregon began implementing modern intercity passenger rail service on existing tracks between Vancouver and Eugene, OR, with the goal of increasing this service's top speed to 110 mph. From this, Amtrak Cascades originated, one of the nation's most successful intercity passenger rail services. Following the study's vision, the Washington State and Oregon Departments of Transportation both created bold long-range plans for Cascades that would dramatically increase their frequency and usefulness. Washington also studied the idea of using existing

WASHINGTON VISION MAP



AAWA's Vision

- Daytime East-West passenger trains
- Frequent Amtrak *Cascades* service
- Better connections to local transit and other modes
- More stations



East-West Trains Across Stampede Pass



Where East-West Started

Washington State

East-West Passenger Rail Feasibility Study: A Preliminary Analysis

AN ASSESSMENT OF REINSTATING PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE ON THE STAMPEDE
PASS CORRIDOR

Noah Westbay & John Bowen
Central Washington University
December 2017

A report sponsored by All Aboard Washington (AAWA)

Final Report
July 2020

Feasibility of an East-West
Intercity Passenger Rail System
for Washington State



June 2001 WSDOT Feasibility Study

“...analysis indicates that Amtrak service along Stampede Pass is physically and operationally feasible.”

Washington State

**East-West Passenger
Rail Feasibility Study:
A Preliminary Analysis**

2017 Ridership Assessment Study

Marketing study showed considerable interest in, and need for, cross-state passenger train service through South Central Washington.

- Commissioned and funded by AAWA
- Performed by Central Washington University

[Available online at aawa.us - Stampede Pass Rail Study](http://aawa.us - Stampede Pass Rail Study)

AN ASSESSMENT OF REINSTATING PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE ON THE STAMPEDE
PASS CORRIDOR

Noah Westbay & John Bowen
Central Washington University
December 2017

A report sponsored by All Aboard Washington (AAWA)

2020 JTC Feasibility Study

Purpose: To assess the ridership, capital needs, operational challenges, and costs of Spokane - Seattle service through Central Washington via BNSF Stampede Pass tracks (Tri-Cities, Yakima, Ellensburg)

Final Report
July 2020

Feasibility of an East-West
Intercity Passenger Rail System
for Washington State



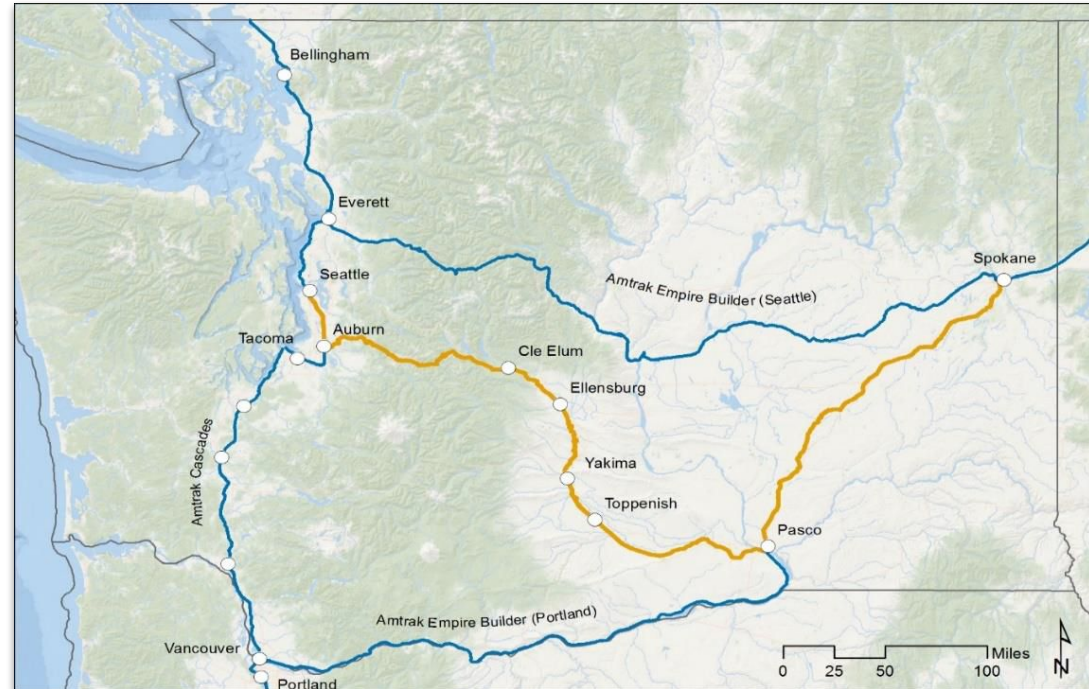
Washington State Joint Transportation Committee
Our ref: 23685001



steer

July 2020 JTC Feasibility Study (*STEER*)

- Strong community support (77%).
- Could generate ridership above or comparable to other Amtrak state-supported services (up to 205,000 annually).
- Cost (based on 2 Spokane-Seattle round trip trains daily):
 - Infrastructure improvements: \$140M
 - Equipment: \$280M
 - Annual operations: \$30M



AAWA Comments re *STEER* Study

STEER comment	AAWA response
<p>Ridership model was developed using cell phone data and surveys of existing travelers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● STEER includes only ridership diversion from automobiles, not from other modes. ● Amtrak data shows only 47% of rail passengers in Washington are diverted from cars. ● 20% of Washingtonians do not have a driver's license.
<p>Journey times will be long due to slow speeds and the high number of freight services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Slower travel time through mountainous terrain can be expected. ● Primary use of the service is to travel to/from cities along the route, not necessarily from Seattle to Spokane. ● This service is time competitive with other modes between many city pairs in Central/Eastern Washington.

Public Support Is Exceptionally Strong

“Over 70% of participants agreed they would try the service”

“Several stakeholder meetings revealed support for the service and interest in the project amongst representatives of the surrounding cities of Yakima and Pasco and the Yakama Nation, as well as senior representatives of BNSF Railway”

“Only 4.4% of participants were opposed or strongly opposed to the service”

Final Report
July 2020

Feasibility of an East-West
Intercity Passenger Rail System
for Washington State



Washington State Joint Transportation Committee
Our ref: 23685001



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STEER Recommendation

“... further work will be required to confirm or refine...findings, including service definition, track and station design along with possible ridership and financial outcomes.”

Final Report
July 2020

Feasibility of an East-West Intercity Passenger Rail System for Washington State



Washington State Joint Transportation Committee
Our ref. 23685001



steer

What Are We Asking For in Olympia?

1. Take the next steps for East-West trains
 - Benefit-Cost Analysis
 - Economic Impact Analysis
2. Restore and expand *Cascades* service
3. Create a Passenger Rail Opinion Group

1. Next Steps for East-West Trains

Obtain Federal grants for East-West, which require:

- a. **Benefit-Cost Analysis** to measure the value of:
 - Reduced greenhouse gas emissions
 - Safety benefits (reduced highway fatalities, injuries, property damage)
 - Reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT)
 - User benefits (reliability, accessibility, increased resilience)
 - Transportation to rural and underserved areas

1. Next Steps for East-West Trains

- b. Economic Analysis** to measure the impact on:
- Retail spending
 - Business activity
 - Tax revenues
 - Jobs/wages
 - Quality of life
 - Property values

2. Restore & Expand Amtrak *Cascades*

Restore *Cascades* service to Snohomish, Skagit, and Whatcom Counties as soon as possible.

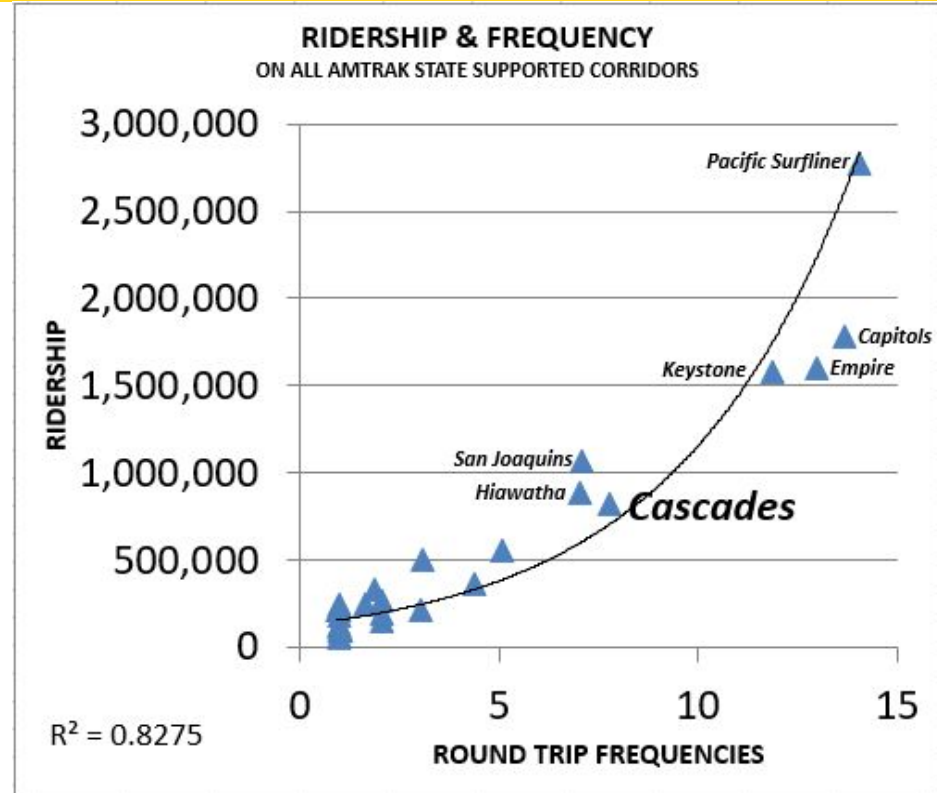
- Reevaluate connections to the state ferry system, better linking the mainland to San Juan and Island Counties
- Restart service to Vancouver, BC when the border reopens



2. Restore & Expand Amtrak *Cascades*

- **Restore pre-pandemic frequencies** as have ferries and local transit
- Increase Seattle-Portland *Cascades* service **from 4 to 6 round trips** as planned before 2017 DuPont accident
- If *Cascades* behaves like other rail corridors, 6 daily SEA-PDX round trips could easily generate **well over 1 million annual riders**

Cascades ridership in 2019 vs. other state corridors





2. Restore & Expand Amtrak *Cascades*

HSR Must Build on Amtrak *Cascades* Service

- Limited resources + serious needs = **getting our priorities straight**
- More communities need to be connected to local and intercity public transportation services in order to achieve our goals
- Without a statewide transit and rail foundation, **HSR will not have enough support** to succeed at the polls

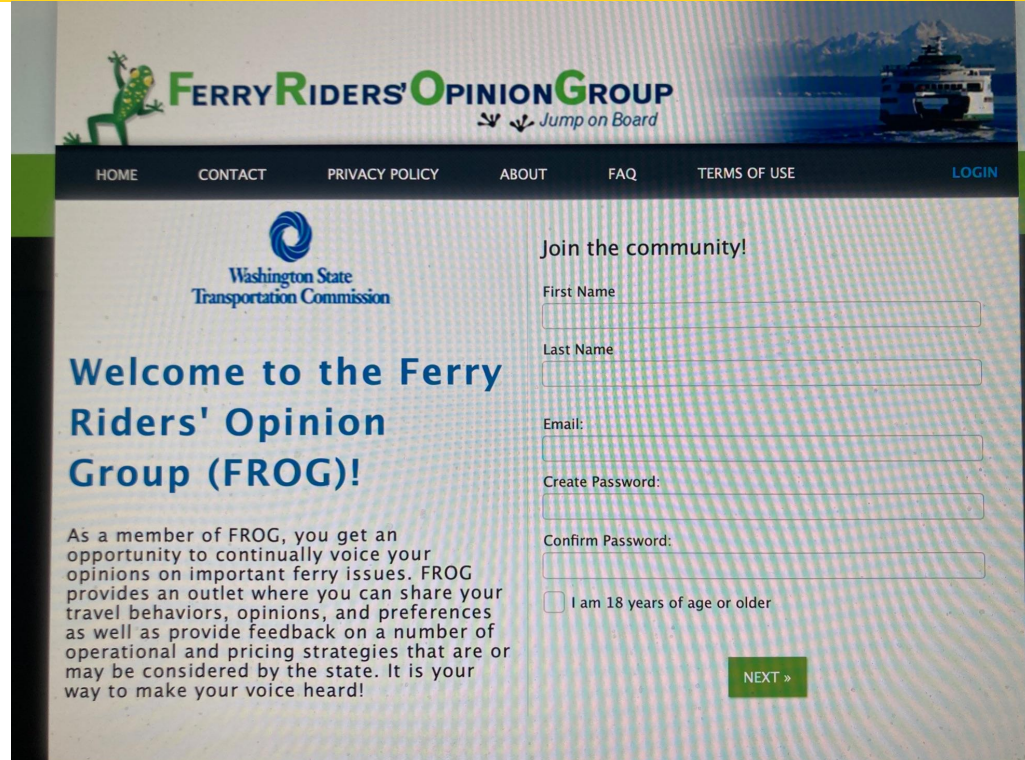


3. Improve Feedback Channels

Ferry riders have a WSTC feedback mechanism known as the Ferry Riders' Opinion Group.

We should establish a

Passenger Rail Opinion Group



The screenshot shows the registration page for the Ferry Riders' Opinion Group (FROG). At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, CONTACT, PRIVACY POLICY, ABOUT, FAQ, TERMS OF USE, and LOGIN. The main heading reads "Welcome to the Ferry Riders' Opinion Group (FROG)!" and includes a brief description of the group's purpose. To the right, there is a registration form with fields for First Name, Last Name, Email, Create Password, and Confirm Password. A checkbox is present for "I am 18 years of age or older". A green "NEXT »" button is located at the bottom right of the form area.

FERRY RIDERS' OPINION GROUP
Jump on Board

HOME CONTACT PRIVACY POLICY ABOUT FAQ TERMS OF USE LOGIN

Washington State
Transportation Commission

Welcome to the Ferry Riders' Opinion Group (FROG)!

As a member of FROG, you get an opportunity to continually voice your opinions on important ferry issues. FROG provides an outlet where you can share your travel behaviors, opinions, and preferences as well as provide feedback on a number of operational and pricing strategies that are or may be considered by the state. It is your way to make your voice heard!

Join the community!

First Name

Last Name

Email:

Create Password:

Confirm Password:

I am 18 years of age or older

NEXT »

Challenges & Opportunities

- Equipment
- Regional Cooperation
- Funding



Acquiring New Equipment

TRANSFORMING RAIL TRAVEL

Venture trainsets for Amtrak



#SUSTAINABLE

MULTI-POWERED TRAINS
DUAL-POWER TRAINS
WHICH ELIMINATE EMISSIONS
WHEN RUNNING ON CATENARY LINES

REDUCING
EMISSIONS
70%
COMPARED
TO TIER 1

INTRODUCING
FIRST OF ITS KIND
**HYBRID
BATTERY
POWER**

PROUDLY SERVING ROUTES IN EIGHT STATES
COMING 2024

SIEMENS

#AVAILABILITY

ACTIVE DATA-MONITORING

FULLY INTEGRATED DIGITAL DIAGNOSTICS

#PASSENGER EXPERIENCE

FULL AMENITY SEATING HIGH-TECH & CONNECTED

SHORTER TRIP TIMES EXPANDED CAPACITY

ENHANCED ACCESSIBILITY FOR FOOD SERVICE, RESTROOMS, AND NEW DOOR SOLUTION WITH WHEELCHAIR LIFTS

EXPECTED TO ADD **1.5 MILLION** PASSENGERS ANNUALLY

#AMERICAN MADE

MANUFACTURED BY SIEMENS MOBILITY IN SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

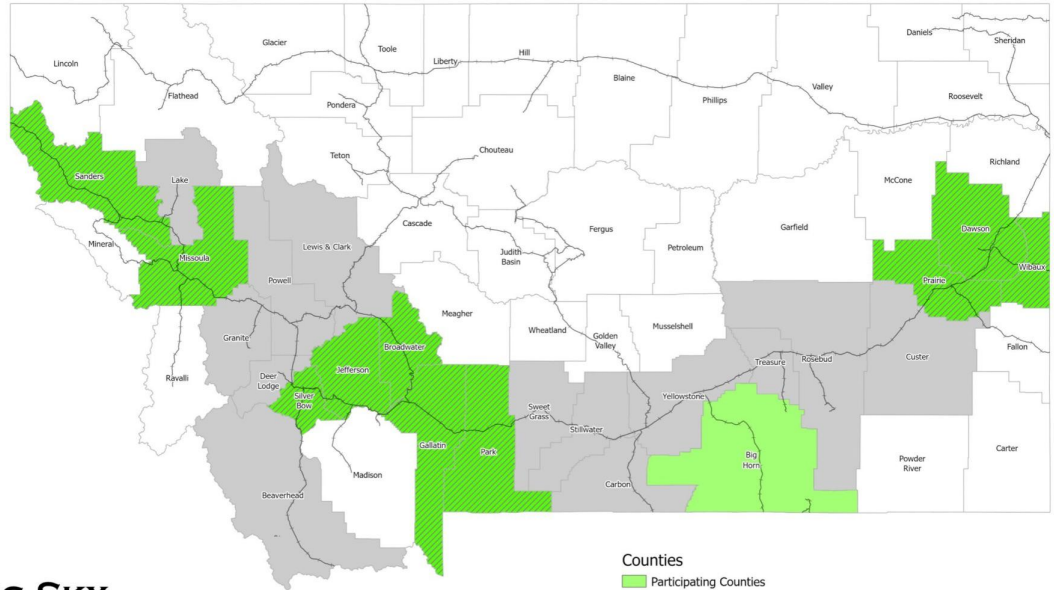
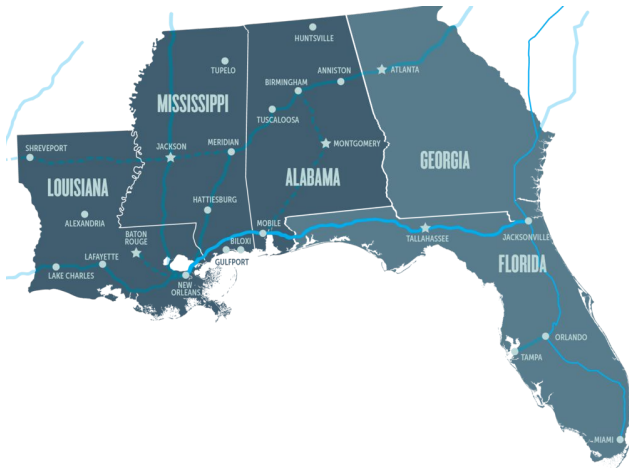
2100+
TEAM MEMBERS

2.1MW
SOLAR POWERED

- Trainsets are being purchased for Amtrak and local services
- Estimated in service 2024-26



Regional Cooperation



**BIG SKY
PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY**

Date: 10/20/2020

- Counties
- Participating Counties
 - Joint Resolution Adopted
 - Invited But Not Yet Participating

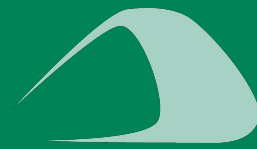


Funding

- New federal grant criteria/weighting
 - Underserved communities
 - Connecting 100 largest MSAs
- Interstate Rail Compacts

How Can YOU Help Make Things Happen?

1. Better local awareness
2. Support from your representatives
3. Stronger grassroots advocacy



1. Awareness

Talk with your family, friends, and neighbors about transportation issues.

Make sure everyone knows about the East-West passenger rail project!

2. Support from Representatives

Talk with your representatives in

- Local government
- Regional organizations
- Our state legislature
- Congress

2. Support from Representatives

Key Talking Points

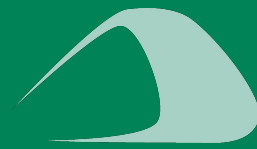
- Get our transportation priorities straight
 - Equity, economics, and environment
 - Accessibility and interconnectivity
- We need prudent short-term action
- Better East-West passenger rail and Amtrak *Cascades* are beneficial to the entire region

3. Stronger Grassroots Advocacy

We are your voice in Olympia and beyond!
Our work isn't possible without **YOU!**

How can you help?

- Volunteering
- Leadership
- Donations



Volunteering

We need help in a number of areas

- Community Outreach
- Content Writing
- Newsletter Editing
- Event Planning

Leadership

Join our Board of Directors and contribute to AAWA with

- Fundraising
- Organizational Policy
- Government Relations
- Networking



Donations

\$7,000 by August 21

Our Fundraising Goal for the 2021 Train Trek

Visit aawa.us/impact/2021-train-trek/
to support our mission and work

We Want to Hear From You!

1. What are the biggest challenges facing your community?
2. What are your top priorities for addressing these challenges?
3. Is there something we're missing from our vision that would help you?

Ritzville Discussion

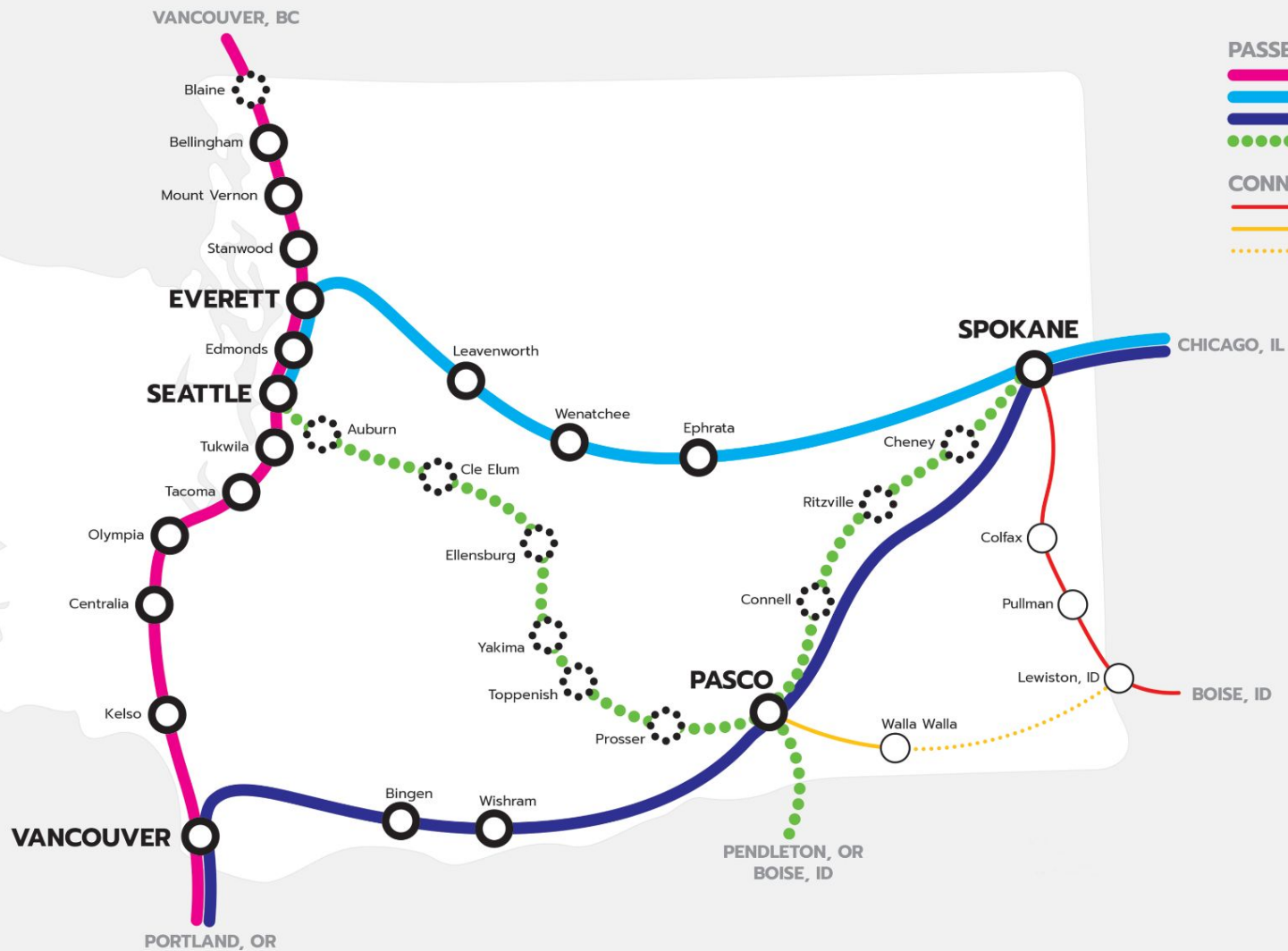
How can we get these types of businesses informed of the benefits of passenger rail, and involved in efforts to return service to the Valley?

- Businesses benefiting from airport connections
- Hospitality industry
- Eastern Washington University
 - Businesses serving students
- Recreation
- Healthcare industry

How can we work to provide passenger rail service for those who need it, including:

- Those who need to travel for specialized medical care
- Those who cannot drive due to disabilities, or cannot afford to drive

How can we get elected officials interested in promoting passenger rail service to Ritzville?



- PASSENGER RAIL**
- Amtrak Cascades
 - Amtrak Empire Builder Seattle
 - Amtrak Empire Builder Portland
 - AAWA Proposed Expansion
- CONNECTING BUS**
- Thruway Pullman
 - Thruway Walla Walla
 - Thruway Walla Walla Proposed

Questions?

Contact us at
(360) 529-5552
(509) 213-0070
or
aawa.us



Amtrak's *Empire Builder* at Yakima, Aug. 1971. Photo: Drew Jacksich.