

Washington State Rail Plan

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Washington State Freight Advisory Committee
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What is the Purpose of the State Rail Plan?

- Fulfills federal and state requirements.
- Incorporated into State Freight Mobility Plan and Washington Transportation Plan.
- 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.



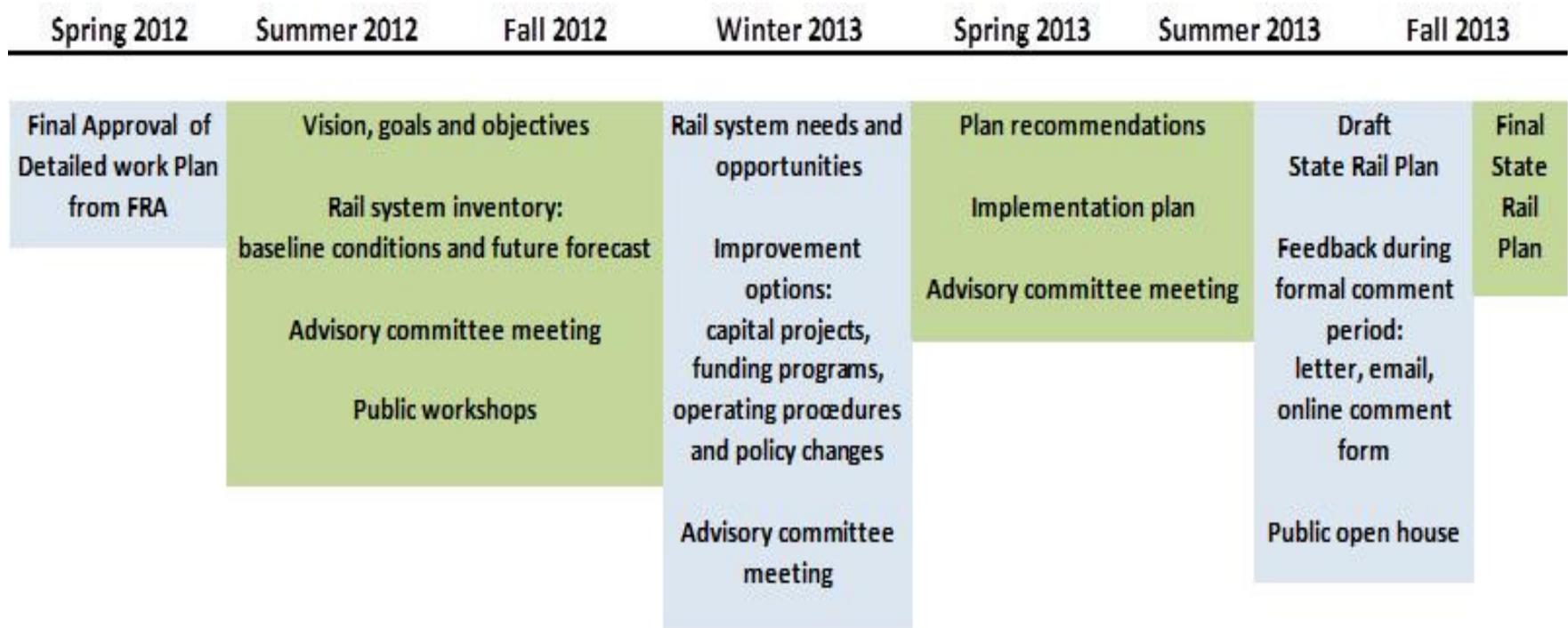
Years of collaborative, consistent planning and substantial state investment prepared WSDOT to compete for and ultimately secure nearly \$800 million in federal funds for passenger rail improvements.

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

Plan Approach

- Articulate the vision
- Understand rail system strengths and challenges
- Define rail system needs
- Recommend strategies
- Establish an implementation plan

State Rail Plan Timeline



2014 and beyond – Plan Implementation →

Incorporate results into State 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.

Freight Rail in Washington State

Class I Railroads: BNSF and UP

- Privately-owned enterprises.
- Fund their own system improvements.
- Own the majority of the rail infrastructure.
- Occasionally partner with the public sector on capital projects (grade crossings, etc.).

Short-line railroads:

- 23 throughout Washington.
- Mixture of private and public ownership.



Passenger Rail in Washington State

Service	Sponsors	Daily Round Trips
Long Distance - Coast Starlight and Empire Builder		
Coast Starlight: Seattle to LA	Amtrak	1
Empire Builder: Seattle to Chicago	Amtrak	1
Intercity Passenger Rail - Amtrak Cascades		
Seattle to Vancouver, B.C.	WSDOT	2
Seattle to Portland, OR	WSDOT, ODOT, Amtrak	4
Portland to Eugene	ODOT	2
Regional/Commuter - Sounder		
Seattle to Everett	Sound Transit	4
Seattle to Tacoma/Lakewood	Sound Transit	9

Light rail



Regional, commuter rail



Intercity passenger rail, emerging high-speed rail



Long-distance rail



Short distance

Long distance

Within a metro area

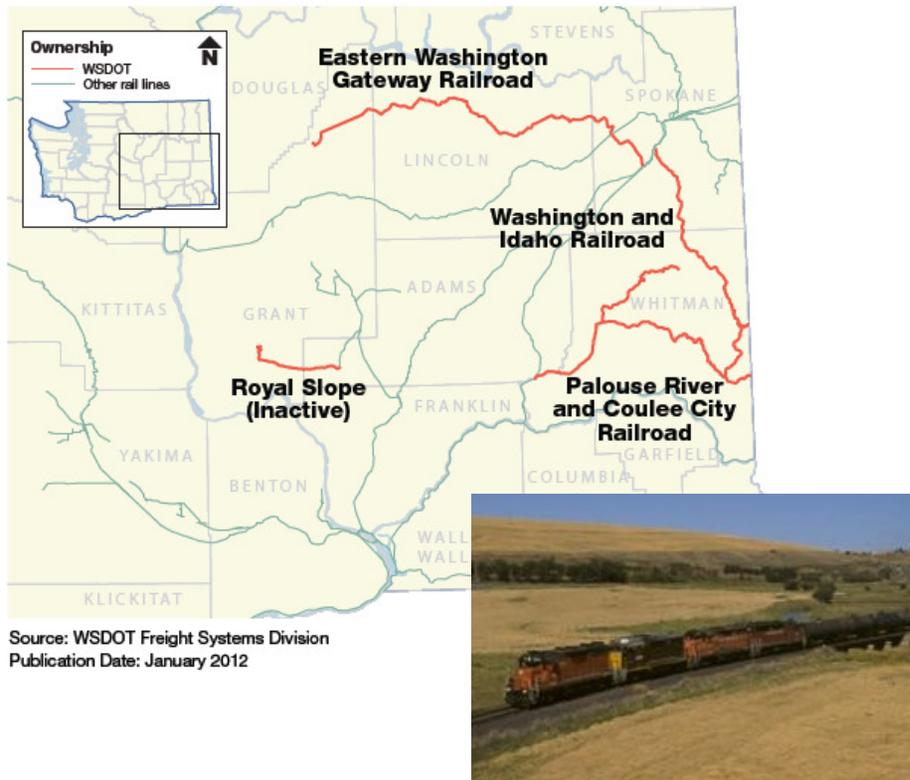
Suburbs to major metro

Between major metros

Cross-country

State-owned and sponsored rail assets

Washington State owns the PCC rail system and the Royal Slope Railroad



Amtrak Cascades Intercity Passenger Rail



Rail System Needs

State Transportation Planning Goals set the direction for what we want to achieve and help us identify and prioritize needs.

- **Economic Vitality:** To promote and develop transportation systems that stimulate, support, and enhance the movement of people and goods to ensure a prosperous economy.
- **Preservation:** To maintain, preserve, and extend the life and utility of prior investments in transportation systems and services.
- **Safety:** To provide for and improve the safety and security of transportation customers and the transportation system.
- **Mobility:** To improve the predictable movement of goods and people throughout Washington State.
- **Environment:** To enhance Washington's quality of life through transportation investments that promote energy conservation, enhance healthy communities, and protect the environment.
- **Stewardship:** To continuously improve the quality, effectiveness, and efficiency of the transportation system.

Washington's Rail System

Strengths:

- Providing good mobility for existing train volumes.
- Extensive network connects citizens and industry.
- Supports industries that contribute \$106 billion to GDP and support 1.2 million jobs.
- Most fuel-efficient mode and produces the least amount of carbon.

Challenges:

- Bottlenecks, constraints and access issues on Class I system.
- Delays and reliability concerns.
- Deferred maintenance degrading level of service on short-line railroads.
- Access to national and global markets.
- Meeting future demand.
- Maintaining a safe rail system.

Washington State Rail System



Rail System Needs

“What”

Rail Operations and Infrastructure Needs

“Why”

Rail’s Role in Economic Development

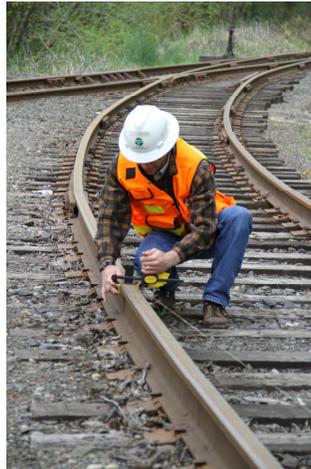
“How”

Rail System Priorities and Goals

Rail Operations and Infrastructure

Needs

- Address constraints to ensure that future capacity meets future demand.
- Preserve existing rail capacity and infrastructure.
- Enhance the efficiency and reliability of existing services.



Recommendations

- State action and investment based on performance measures.
- Continue incremental improvement of intercity passenger rail.
- Assess short-line railroad system conditions and needs.
- Seek cost effective approaches.

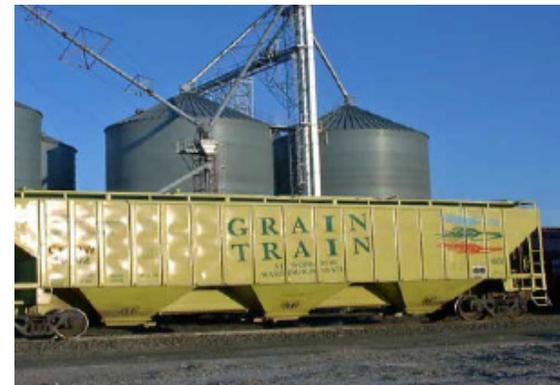
Rail's Role in Economic Development - Needs

Needs

- Rail should support Washington's economy by providing access to people and industry.
- Preserve access to global markets by ensuring access to Washington's ports.

Recommendations

- Include "first and last mile" connectivity in investment priorities.
- Include support or enhancement of domestic or international trade in investment priorities.



Rail System Priorities and Goals

Needs

- Prioritize cost-effective investments into the state's rail system.
- Strengthen rail to maximize benefits and minimize negative impacts.
- Continue to support safe and secure passenger and freight rail movement.

Recommendations

- Use performance measures to assess funding needs.
- Consider expansion of funding partnerships
- Communicate the benefits of rail
- Support state and federal programs that promote rail safety and security.



Investment and Investment Plan

- 5- and 20-year strategies
- Priorities for state-owned and state-sponsored assets
- Capital projects (identified in adopted transportation plans) that address system needs

Near-term priorities:

(Funding from existing sources is very limited)

- Deliver funded projects
- Maintain and preserve existing infrastructure
- Improve efficiency
- Establish short line system inventory
- Support *State Freight Mobility Plan* effort to define freight priorities based on performance measures

Next Steps

- Release draft Washington State Rail Plan for public review and comment in September 2013.
- Next event:
 - Regional Rail Workshop
Monday, September 30
1pm to 4pm, Centralia Library
Hosted by: Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Thurston Regional Planning Council, Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council, Grays Harbor Council of Governments and Lewis County Transportation Strategy Council
- Final Washington State Rail Plan in December 2013.
- Continue collaborative planning with stakeholders and partners to refine and focus investment priorities.



Contact Information

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