

Washington State Joint Transportation Committee

Feasibility of East-West Intercity Passenger Rail Service for Washington State

The Washington State Legislature has directed the Joint Transportation Committee to conduct a feasibility analysis of an east-west intercity passenger rail system for Washington State. The analysis will look specifically at the Stampede Pass corridor and service to Auburn, Cle-Elum, Yakima, Ellensburg, Tri-Cities, Toppenish and Spokane.

The study will include the following elements:

- Projections of potential ridership and revenues
- Determination and description of potential operational scenarios including the number and timing of departures per day, approximate schedules, passenger train sets needed, potential impact on rail freight movement and other factors
- Assessment of current infrastructure conditions, including station stop locations with high level cost estimates for necessary improvements and equipment
- Assessment of community support through focus groups and an on-line survey
- Identification of potential operator options

The study report is due to the transportation committees of the legislature by June 30, 2020.

The study is:

A preliminary step in providing more information to the legislature on the feasibility of intercity passenger rail service along the Stampede Pass corridor

The study is not:

A plan for, or a commitment by the legislature to make future investments in east-west passenger rail service

The study includes:

A high-level cost estimate of needed improvements, infrastructure and equipment

Focus groups and an on-line survey to assess community support and inform ridership projections

The study does not include:

A detailed or precise assessment of the costs of the infrastructure and equipment needed

A full cost-benefit analysis

A comprehensive public involvement program

What is the Washington State Joint Transportation Committee?

The Joint Transportation Committee (JTC) is a bipartisan, bicameral legislative agency that conducts transportation related studies and other activities to inform state and local government policymakers, including legislators and associated staff. The JTC is governed by an Executive Committee consisting of the Chairs and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Transportation Committees: Rep. Jake Fey, Rep. Andrew Barkis, Sen. Steve Hobbs and Sen. Curtis King. JTC studies and other activities are managed and/or conducted by non-partisan JTC staff.

If you have questions about this study, please contact:

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