

# Passenger Rail Update

**Lynn Peterson**  
Secretary

**Cam Gilmour**  
Deputy Secretary

**Ron Pate**  
Rail Division Director

**Joint Transportation Committee**  
**July 24, 2014**

# Pacific Northwest High-Speed Rail Corridor



## Amtrak Cascades Passenger Rail

467-mile corridor

- 300 miles in WA
- 134 miles in OR
- 33 miles in BC

**One of 11 designated high-speed rail corridors** eligible for federal funding.

Amtrak Cascades alignment with *Results WSDOT* Goals.

### **Results WSDOT Goals:**

1. Strategic Investments
2. Modal Integration
3. Environmental Stewardship
4. Organizational Strength
5. Community Engagement
6. Smart Technology

# 20 Federally Funded Projects in Washington

Current average spending rate for capital improvements program is approximately \$15 million per month

- 3 projects completed
- 8 projects in construction
- 9 projects in pre-construction

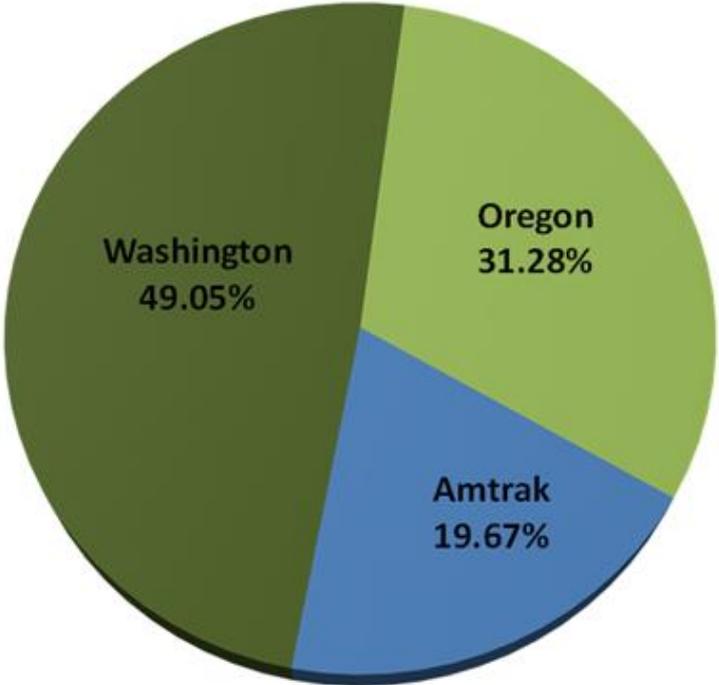


# Funding Responsibilities Changed Dramatically

*Federal operating subsidies reduced to \$0*

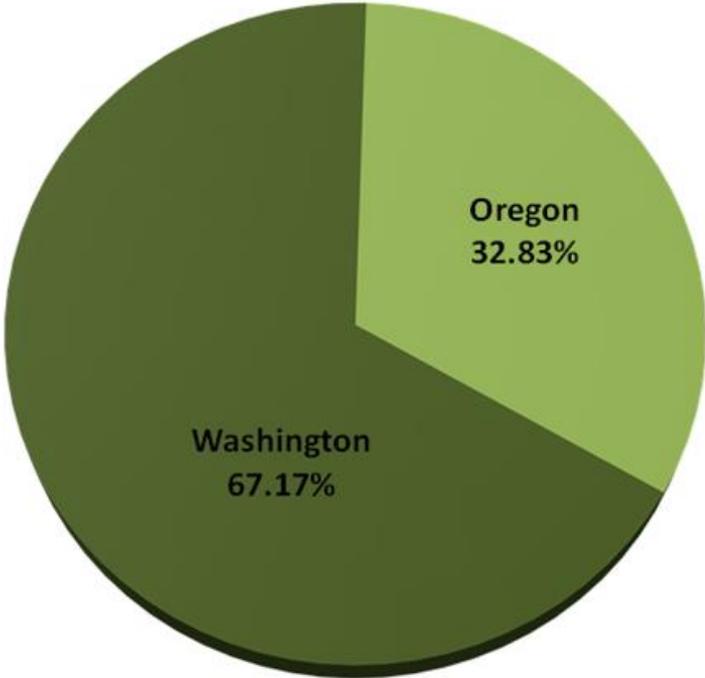
**Prior to Oct. 1, 2013:**

Cost Sharing for 2011-2013,  
Based on Subsidy



**After Oct. 1, 2013:**

Washington pays ~ \$6 million  
more per year:



*Ticket revenues fund the majority of our train operations – 59.5 percent.*

# Managing Costs and Improving Service

**WSDOT is examining costs and opportunities:**

**Outcome – Rail Division Action Plan 2014 – 2015**

The Rail Division created an Action Plan to address:

- Contract costs
- Business process improvements
- Policy-level analysis
- Pilot program with travel industry



# Managing Costs and Improving Service

**Request for Information** seeking expert opinions on cost-effectively operating passenger rail service

- RFI issued April 2014
- 13 respondents
- Interviews conducted through the summer of 2014
- Summary report, due out this fall, will identify short-term, mid-term, and long-term strategies



# National Rail Efforts

## National involvement on three committees

- Capital Program
  - Great progress; much to be done
  - Section 209 States Working Group member
- Performance Standards
  - Performance standards/metrics/measures to monitor and improve performance
  - Incentives and penalties
- Operating Costs
  - Cost allocation methodology

## States for Passenger Rail Coalition

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition is an alliance of 33 state leaders from across the United States who work together to support the development and growth of intercity passenger rail service for America.



# New Locomotives – Made in the USA



# Questions?

For additional information,  
please contact:

**Ron Pate**

**Rail Division Director**

360-705-6903

[PateRD@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:PateRD@wsdot.wa.gov)

