

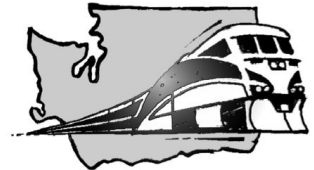
Connecting East and West

Advocating for passenger rail service
in Washington state



Who is All Aboard Washington?

- AAWA has promoted better passenger and freight rail service in the Pacific Northwest for over forty years.
- We are a nonprofit advocacy organization of citizens, businesses, and other goal-oriented groups.





AAWA Accomplishments

- Advocated for a state study of re-establishing passenger rail service through the Yakima Valley (2018-19).
- Advocated legislation to allowing County Rail Districts (CRDs) to facilitate passenger as well as freight service (2018).
- Funded a Central Washington University research project studying local support of passenger rail service in the Yakima Valley (2017).
- Worked with the state and Amtrak to restart regional service using advanced passenger rail equipment (1994; expanded 1995, 2010).
- Instrumental in the grassroots creation of privately-funded Centennial Station serving Lacey and Olympia (1993).

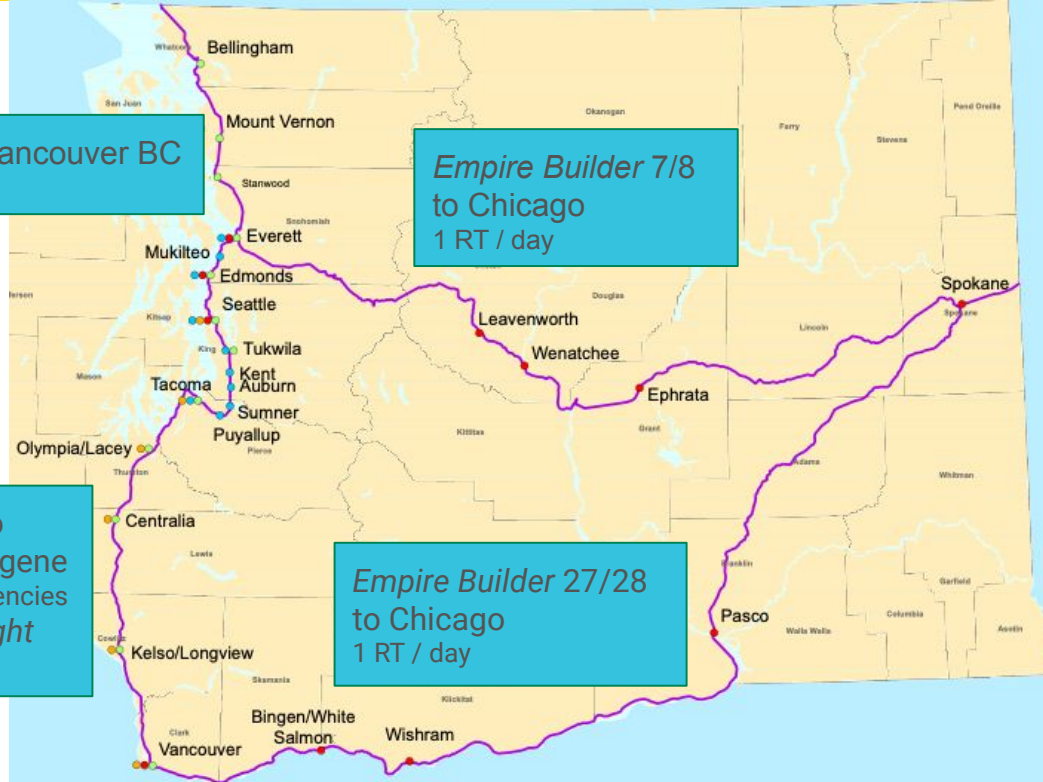
Where Passenger Rail is Now

Cascades to Vancouver BC
2 RT / day

Empire Builder 7/8
to Chicago
1 RT / day

Cascades to
Portland, Eugene
Multiple frequencies
Coast Starlight
1 RT / day

Empire Builder 27/28
to Chicago
1 RT / day

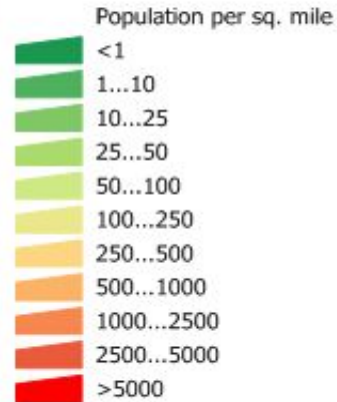


Bring Rail to the People

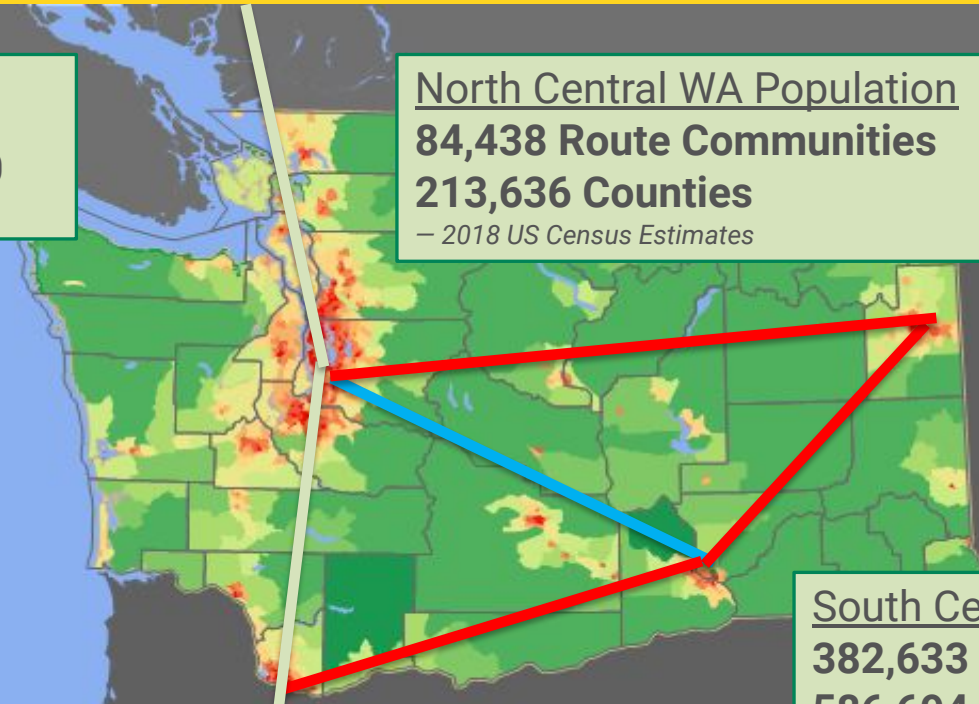
Seattle 724,745
—2017 US Census Est
Bellevue 141,100
—2019 US Census Est

North Central WA Population
84,438 Route Communities
213,636 Counties
— 2018 US Census Estimates

Connect eastern and central Washington with Puget Sound and western Washington



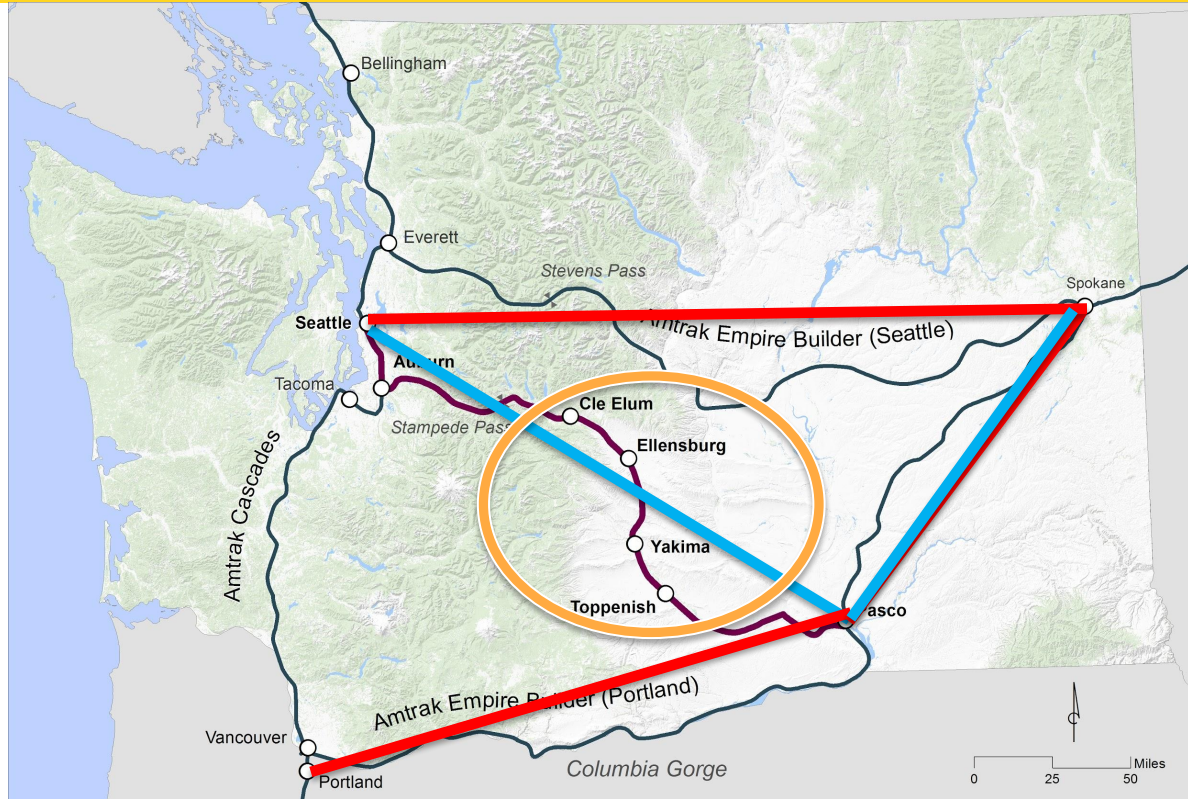
Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Census 2010 Summary File 1
population by census tract



South Central WA Population
382,633 Route Communities
586,694 Counties
— 2019 US Census Estimates



Proposed Network





Today and Tomorrow

Proposed service can be

- Implemented quickly with existing infrastructure and equipment
- Used as a feeder for future high-speed rail

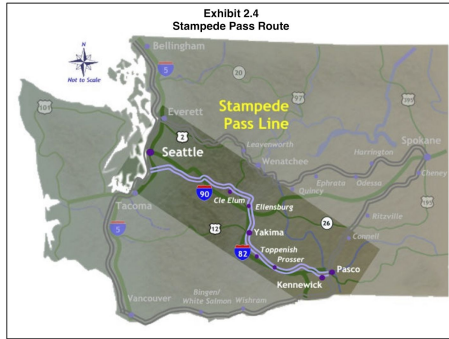


Goal: Build on the Cascades

How do we extend existing service beyond Western Washington?



1. Conduct Research



thought that the Stevens Pass line and the Columbia River Gorge line would be able to provide sufficient east-west capacity over the Cascade Mountains well into the twenty-first century. As a result, approximately 153 miles of the Stampede Pass line were sold to the Washington Central Railroad, an independent short line operating between Pasco and Cle Elum. The BN retained the remaining 97-mile segment but removed it from active service.

As a result, Amtrak's *North Coast Hiawatha* service was terminated, and the *Empire Builder* service was moved to the Stevens Pass route. To provide a general comparison (as well as a historic perspective), **Exhibit 2.5** presents a 1979

timetable for Amtrak's transcontinental *Empire Builder* route (over Stampede Pass).

Exhibit 2.5
Stampede Pass Passenger Rail Service
Amtrak Empire Builder 1979 Timetable

TIME	CITY	TIME
11:15 pm	Spokane	1:50 am
2:15 am	Pasco	10:55 pm
4:05 am	Yakima	9:15 pm
5:10 am	Ellensburg	8:11 pm
8:00 am	East Auburn	5:38 pm
8:55 am	Seattle	5:00 pm

Source: Burlington Northern Railroad Timetable



2. Spread the Word

- Present to legislators and the public in Pasco and elsewhere
- Lead “Whistle Stop” educational events for legislators
- Make presentation at Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)

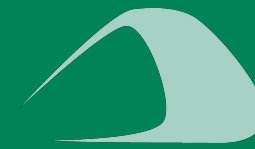


3. Connect with Communities

Garner support in many locations throughout the state, including:

- Auburn
- Blaine
- Bellingham
- Centralia
- Lacey
- Leavenworth
- Mount Vernon
- Olympia
- Pasco
- Seattle
- Tacoma
- Tukwila
- Vancouver
- Wenatchee
- Yakima

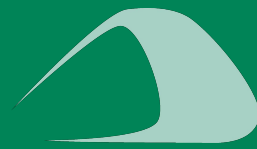




4. Advocate in Olympia

- Sponsor Legislative Rail Caucus events
- Advocate for legislation to conduct “Feasibility of an East-West Intercity Passenger Rail System for Washington State,” which passed in 2019
- Represent rail passengers on the Joint Transportation Committee’s East-West Study Work Group





East-West Study, 2019-20

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

Study is due June 30, 2020

<http://leg.wa.gov/JTC/Pages/eastwestpassengerrail.aspx>

Steps to Make it Happen . . .



- Involve Local Stakeholders
 - Yakima Valley Council of Governments, Chambers of Commerce, city & county governments, interested citizens & businesses
- State Legislature
 - Rail Caucus Proviso 2019
- Study AND Demonstrate
 - Don't just do it on paper
 - Run trains, excite public, test actual ridership
 - Game-Day/Event Trains
 - "Snow-Buster" alternative train service when Pass or roads are bad

Questions?

Contact us at 360-529-5552 or aawa.us

