

# **Intercity Passenger Rail and Freight Rail Projects**

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**Washington State Transportation Commission**  
**October 21, 2015**

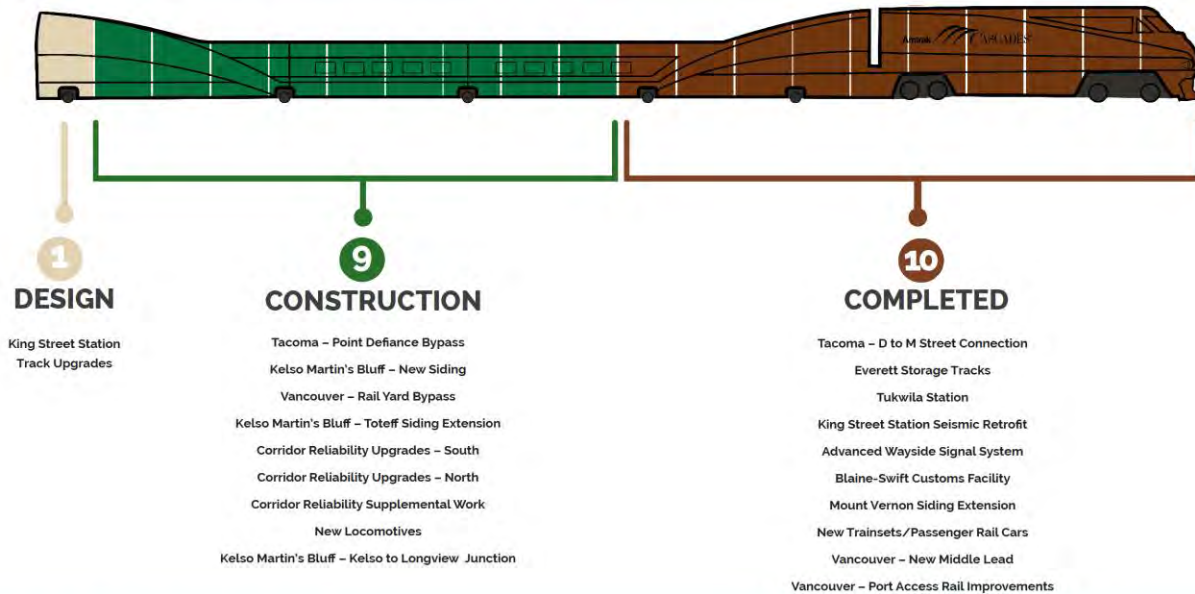
# Presentation agenda

- Major milestone with capital improvements – 10 out 20 projects complete
- Status of freight rail projects
- Amtrak Cascades operations and new service launch in 2017
- Positive Train Control



# Halfway there – 10 of 20 High-speed Rail Capital Projects Completed

## WSDOT HIGH-SPEED RAIL PROJECT PROGRESS



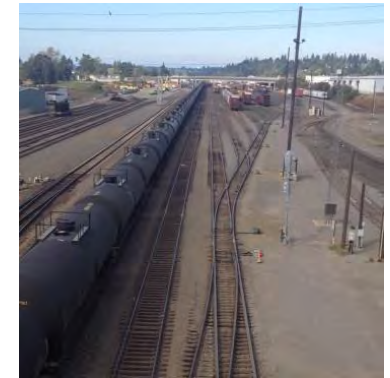
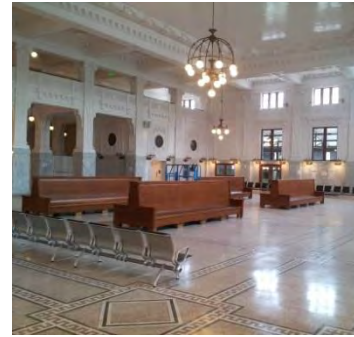
SEPTEMBER 2015  
10:00:00AM

20 PROJECTS BY 2017



# Completed Projects

- **King Street Station:** Seismic retrofits to building; historic lobby restored
- **Tacoma D to M Street Connection:** 1.4 miles of new track
- **Everett Storage Tracks:** New receiving/ departure tracks
- **Tukwila Station:** New station replaces temporary structure with multimodal hub
- **Vancouver New Middle Lead:** Second 1,300-foot track to ease congestion
- **Port of Vancouver Improvements:** Congestion relief, new rail trench improves access
- **Blain-Swift Customs Facility:** Second siding for customs inspections off the mainline
- **Mount Vernon Siding Extension:** Provides more capacity for meets and passes of trains
- **Advanced Wayside Signal System:** Upgrades at all control points, sidings, turnouts
- **New trainsets:** Goal met by ODOT purchase; funds reallocated



# Projects Coming in the Next 18 Months

- **Slide Management Projects** – four additional sites near Mukilteo and Everett complete this month (2 others done in 2013)
- Eight new **Siemens Charger locomotives** delivered in fall 2016
- Two **corridor reliability upgrade** projects to add state-of-the-art technology and equipment along entire Washington corridor
- Three projects in the **Kelso/Kalama/Longview** region to improve capacity and reduce congestion
- **Bypass at the Vancouver Rail Yard** to separate passenger and freight traffic and reduce congestion
- **King Street Station track** improvements to reconfigure connections and increase capacity for all trains operating at station
- **New Tacoma Amtrak Cascades station** and **inland bypass** between Tacoma and Nisqually



# Freight Rail Projects

## Between 2013-2016 WSDOT awarded:

- \$9.1 million in Freight Rail Assistance Program (FRAP) grants
- \$11.2 million in Freight Rail Investment Bank (FRIB) loans
- \$12.5 million in Connecting Washington money

## 18 FRAP projects, four completed construction (the four awarded in 2013-15)

- Port of Walla Walla – build/relocate tracks
- Clark County – Vancouver to Barberton
- Lincoln County Economic Development
- Cooperative Agricultural Producers, Inc. (Co-Ag)

## 19 FRIB projects, nine completed construction (out of 11 awarded in 2013-15)

- City of Richland – Horn Rapids Rail Siding
- Port of Everett – roll on/roll off dock improvements
- Port of Walla Walla – build/relocate tracks
- Six Tacoma Rail improvement projects

## 11 new Connecting Washington projects

- Totalling \$12.5 million this biennium
- Determining scope and delivery methods now



# Amtrak Cascades Operations and 2017 New Service Launch

- Adding daily service in 2017
  - Two additional daily roundtrips between Seattle and Portland – for a total of six
  - Quicker travel times – 10 minutes
  - Improved on-time performance between Portland and Vancouver, B.C. – 88%
- Coordinating with Sound Transit, Amtrak, BNSF and Union Pacific for smooth transition
- Creating new database to report on service outcomes
- Convening Station Stop Policy advisory committee
- Finalizing Fleet Management Plan
- Maintaining and improving on board experience
  - Wi-Fi
  - Media players
  - Food and beverage
  - Bike storage



# Positive Train Control (PTC)

- Designed to prevent train-to-train collisions, control excessive speeds, and move trains more safely through switches
- Applies to railroad main lines with intercity passenger or commuter rail services or poisonous-inhalation-hazardous materials
- Current deadline for full implementation is December 31, 2015
- Few corridors are ready – estimated 70,000 miles of track included
- Congress considering legislation to extend deadline to 2018 (HR 3651 and S 650)
- Amtrak Cascades operates on BNSF and UP tracks. Both companies are likely to suspend passenger rail service if Congress fails to extend the deadline
- Beginning December 1, 2015 Amtrak plans to start notifying passengers through its reservation system of possible service disruptions
- Penalties for railroads operating without certification could be \$25,000-\$50,000 per train, per day, per subdivision





# Questions?

For more information on  
Intercity Passenger Rail and Freight Rail Projects,  
please contact:

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## Web links:

- Rail Division: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/rail](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/rail)
- WSDOT High-Speed Rail Program: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/highspeedrail.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/highspeedrail.htm)
- Amtrak Cascades: [www.AmtrakCascades.com](http://www.AmtrakCascades.com)