

WSDOT PCC Short-line and Amtrak Cascades

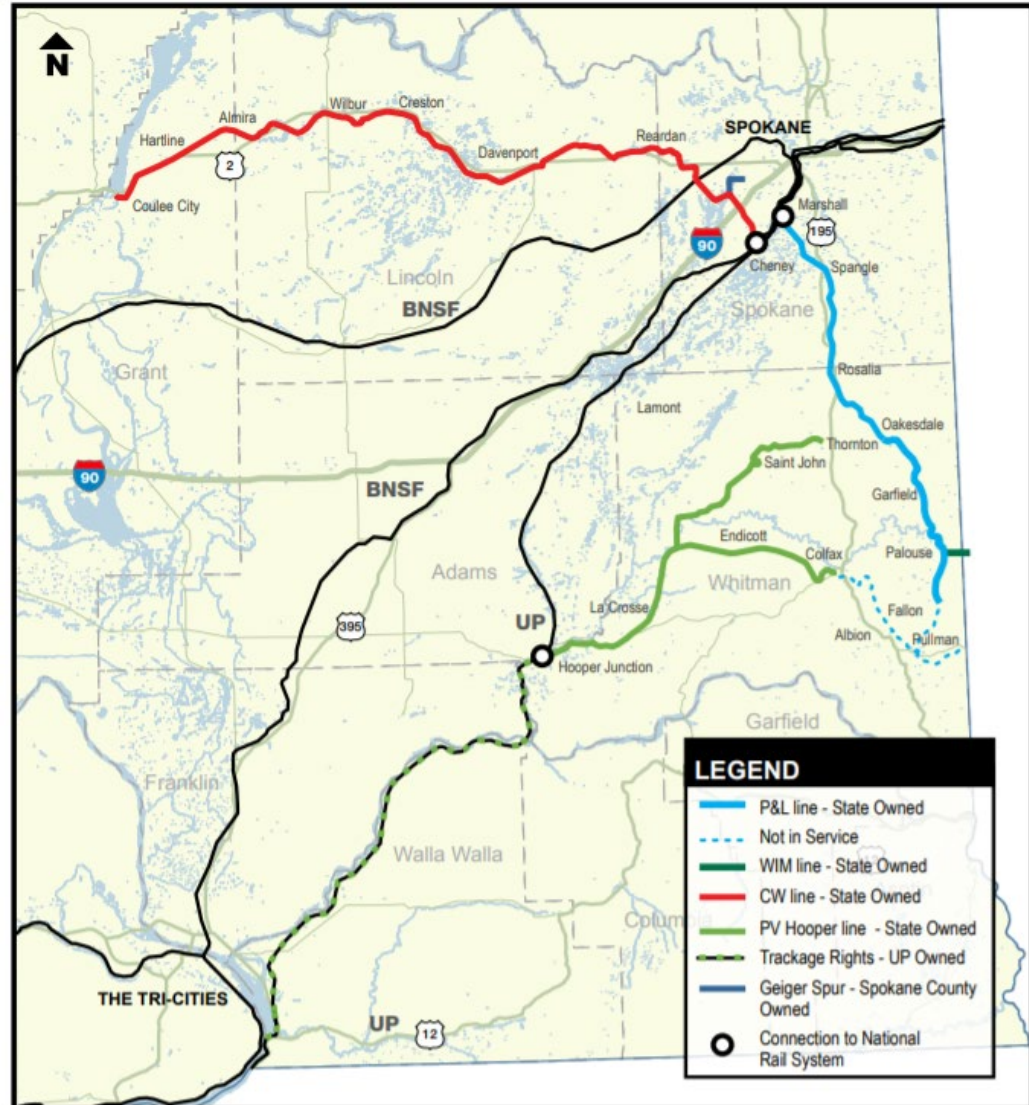
**WASHINGTON STATE TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION MEETING**

Ron Pate | Director, Rail, Freight and Ports Division

October 19, 2021

PCC short-line railroad

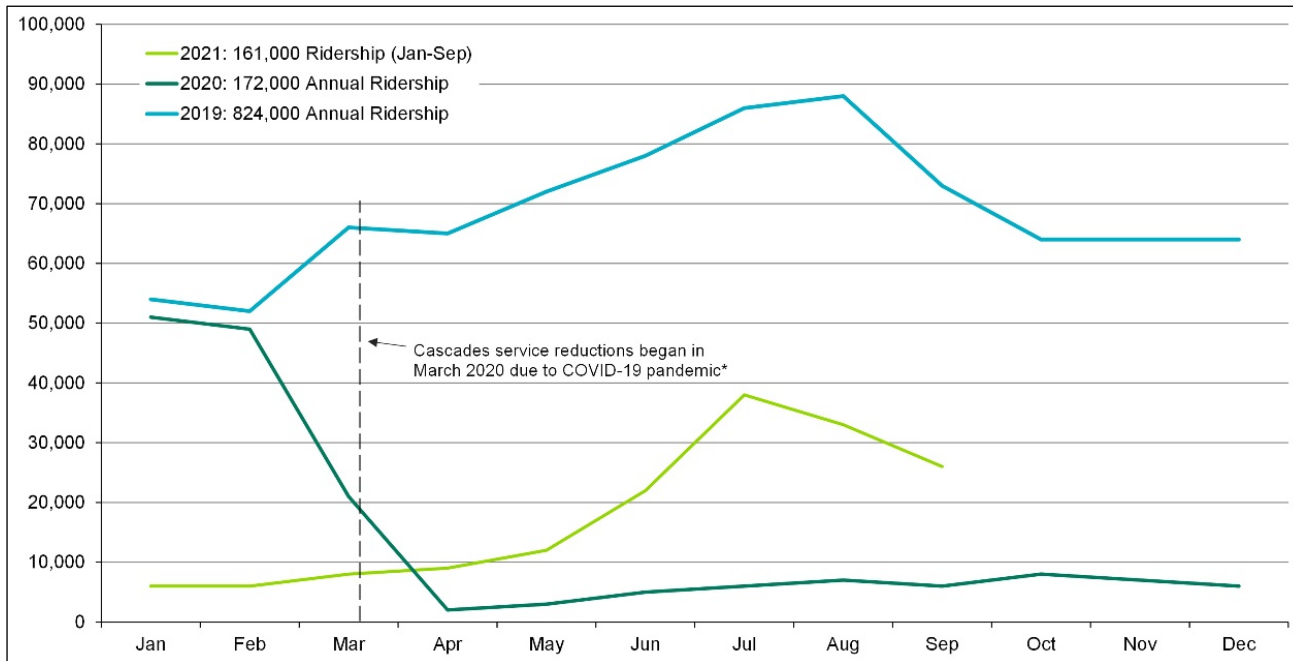
- Allows eastern Washington farmers to ship products via rail from remote locations
- Serves Grant, Lincoln, Spokane, Adams, and Whitman counties
- Largest short line in the state - 297 miles
- Owned by WSDOT, with contracted operators for three separate lines
- Operators maintain each of their sections
- PCC Rail Authority - intergovernmental entity formed by counties - oversees business and economic development
- WSDOT funds infrastructure improvements to all segments to improve operations
- Federal funding of \$5.6 million received through 2018 BUILD grant
- Matching \$5.6 million in Connecting Washington funds
- BUILD grant work will be completed in 2022
- Many improvements still needed



Amtrak Cascades then and now

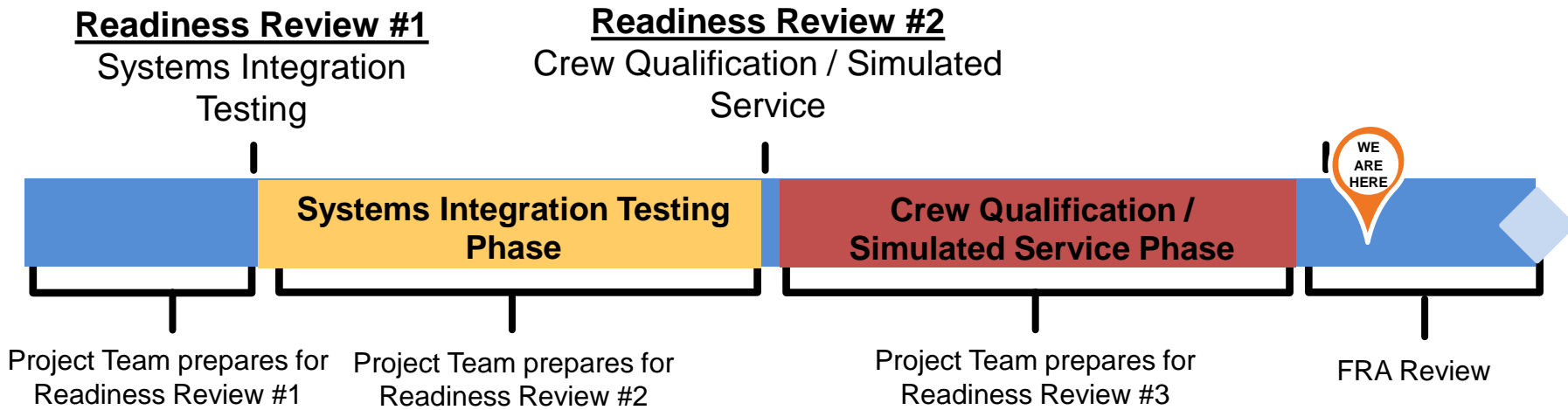
Amtrak Cascades service in 2021 compared to 2019

- WSDOT and ODOT contract with Amtrak to operate the service
- Currently three daily trips in each direction between Seattle and Portland, with two continuing to Eugene
- All service north of Seattle suspended due to border closure
- More than 90% decrease in ridership and revenue in 2020
- Currently at 65% ridership compared to 2019



Returning to Point Defiance Bypass

Timeline of Sound Transit and Amtrak activities



New Tacoma station

- Construction completed in 2017
- Conducted extensive public engagement and convened a Citizen Advisory Group to provide input on station design
- Part of the largest multi-modal transit hub in the state
 - Sounder commuter trains to Seattle
 - Tacoma Link light rail
 - Sounder and Pierce Transit buses
 - Greyhound and Trailway buses
 - Auto and bicycle parking
- All modes identify this area as the Tacoma Dome Station – including Sound Transit signage on the station platform shared by Amtrak and Sounder trains
- Recommend naming the WSDOT-owned Amtrak Cascades station the “Tacoma Dome Station”



Looking ahead

- Anticipate returning service to Canada in 2022
- Will add back more trips between Seattle and Portland as demand increases – ultimately getting to six daily roundtrips
- Seeking to leverage state capital dollars by using them to match federal grants – currently awarded:
 - BUILD grant for PCC
 - Two CRISI grants for landslide mitigation
 - State of Good Repair grant for new train sets
- Closely watching Congressional infrastructure package, if passed:
 - Increased funding for discretionary grant programs
 - National funding for rail equipment
- New Cascades trainsets arriving 2025 time period
 - Eight new trains for Amtrak Cascades
- Amtrak Cascades Service Development Plan
 - Analyzing scenarios for future service
 - Consultant just hired



Questions?

For more information on the WSDOT PCC Short-line
and Amtrak Cascades, please contact:

Ron Pate, Director
Rail, Freight and Ports Division
(360) 705-6903 or PateRD@wsdot.wa.gov