

Cascadia High-Speed Rail Update

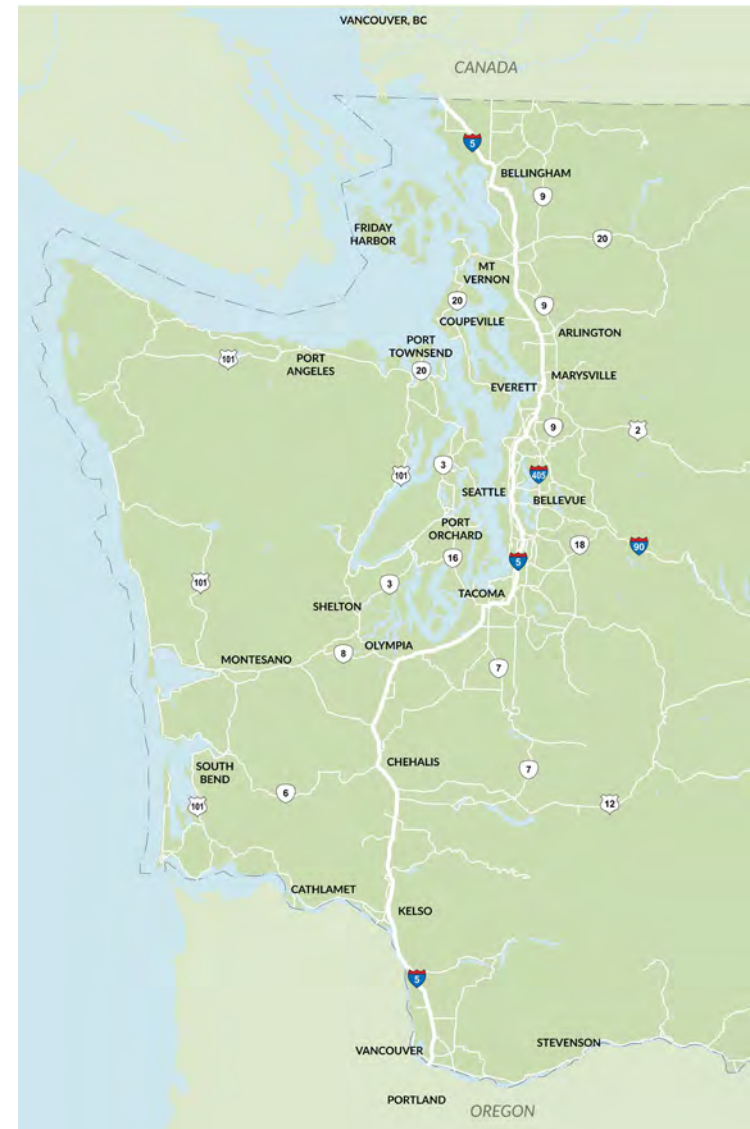
Washington State Transportation Commission

RON PATE, PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR,
CASCADIA HIGH-SPEED RAIL AND I-5 PROGRAM

May 15, 2024

Cascadia High-Speed Rail and I-5 Program

- Consistent with legislative direction, WSDOT integrated the I-5 Study and Cascadia High-Speed Rail (HSR) into one program.
- Leverages opportunities, maximizes existing resources, and addresses future needs including regional growth.
- HSR planning in partnership with British Columbia and Oregon.
- Supports investments that lead to an equitable, resilient transportation system.



Alignment and coordination with current efforts

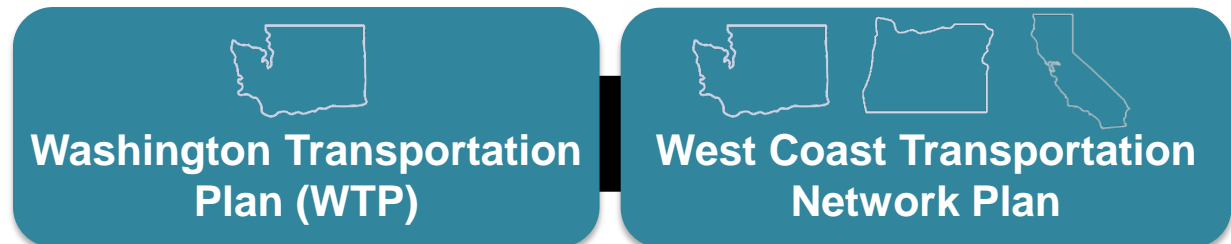
Cascadia High-Speed Rail and I-5 Program



Concurrent WSDOT Planning Efforts



Statewide and Multi-state Planning Efforts

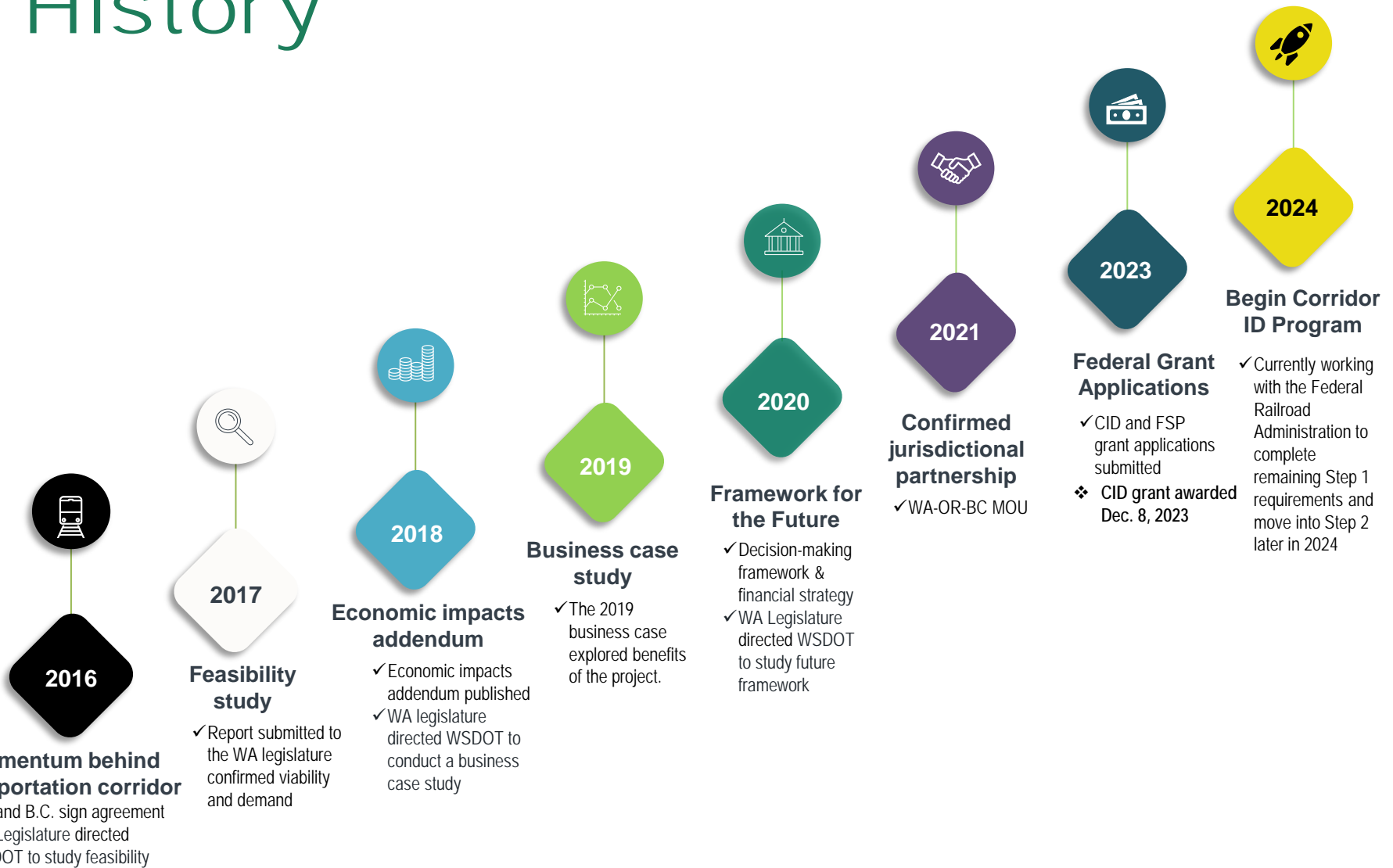


An integrated, multimodal approach to plan for regional growth

- 3-4 million new residents are expected in the Cascadia megaregion by 2050.
- This significant growth requires investments across modes, including rail, highways and air mobility.
- Extreme weather events and climate impacts will place greater strain on our infrastructure, requiring investments for a more resilient system.
- New travel options are needed to accommodate growth and provide equitable access throughout the region.

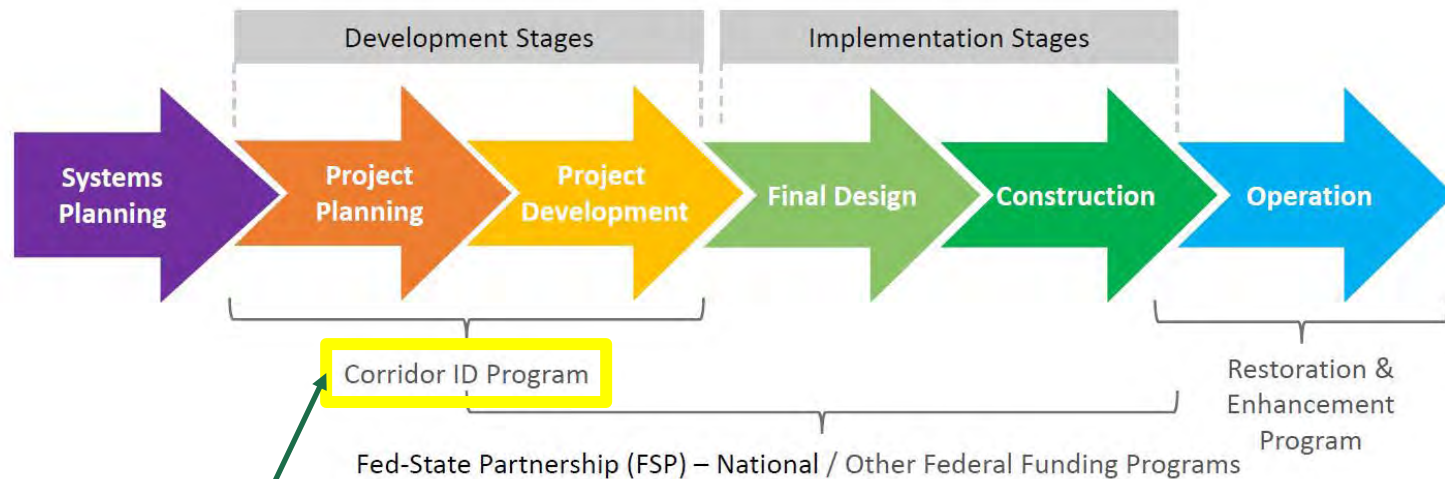


Cascadia High-Speed Rail History



Federal Funding Pipeline: Corridor ID and FSP Programs

FRA Project Lifecycle Stages – Corresponding FRA Funding Programs



Cascadia High-Speed Rail is **here**

Corridor ID Program Award

In December 2023, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) awarded **two** Corridor ID Program grants for:

1. **Cascadia high-speed rail**, led by WSDOT Urban Mobility, Access and Megaprograms (UMAM)
2. **Amtrak Cascades**, led by WSDOT Rail, Freight and Ports Division

What federal rail leaders are saying about Cascadia High-Speed Rail

“

Corridor selections announced today create a strong pipeline of projects that will drive future passenger rail expansion in America, and the **Federal Railroad Administration is particularly excited about the potential of the Cascadia High-Speed Rail Corridor** selected through FRA's Corridor Identification and Development Program

“This program provides the necessary tools to advance the Cascadia Corridor, and FRA is eager to work with the Washington State Department of Transportation and other stakeholders to do just that.”



Amit Bose, Administrator
Federal Railroad
Administration

Current Phase: Corridor ID Step 1

What Happens Next—Steps 1, 2, and 3

Grant	Step 1: Scoping	Step 2: Service Development Plan	Step 3: Preliminary Engineering / NEPA
Funding	\$500k / 0% match	\$X / 10% match <i>(\$X determined during Step 1)</i>	\$X / 20% match <i>(\$X determined during Step 2)</i>
Scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using SDP SOW framework, sponsor develops scope, schedule, and budget for Corridor SDP, accounting for work ongoing and/or undertaken to date 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sponsor develops a service development plan in accordance with Corridor SOW and in coordination with FRA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In coordination with FRA, sponsor completes preliminary engineering for capital projects Sponsor completes environmental review in coordination with FRA for capital projects
Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After kick-off meeting, FRA will review work undertaken to date Step 1 grant deliverable is SDP SOW to include corridor-specific scope, schedule, and budget for service development planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final service development plan includes a Capital Project Inventory as part of the Phased Implementation Plan If readiness criteria are met, capital projects identified in SDP may be advanced into Step 3 Project Development, at FRA's discretion and subject to funding availability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital projects that complete Step 3 will move to Project Pipeline and may be prioritized for funding under Fed-State Partnership Program



Cascadia High-Speed Rail is here

Cascadia HSR and I-5 Program

Next Steps



- Continue working with the FRA to advance Cascadia High-Speed Rail through the Corridor ID Program.
 - Upon FRA approval, WSDOT will advance to Step 2 of the Corridor ID Program and work with its partners in Oregon and British Columbia to deliver the Cascadia High-Speed Rail service development plan.



- Advance I-5 corridor planning, including a workplan for future phases. Reports due to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2024 include:
 1. Recommendations for future phases and a funding request for work planned through 2029.
 2. I-5 Seattle Ramp Reconfiguration Study Report, in coordination with the City of Seattle.

Questions

Ron Pate

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