

Rail Operations and Infrastructure

Needs	Recommendations
<p>Address capacity constraints in order to meet future passenger and freight rail demands.</p>	<p>The state's involvement in the rail system should be focused on actions that improve the state's interests, including a thriving and diverse economy, environmental efficiency, resiliency and safety.</p> <p>The state should take an active leadership role to build on existing multistate coalitions to address rail system and corridor needs across the Pacific Northwest.</p> <p>WSDOT should continue to pursue the incremental implementation of passenger rail service.</p> <p>Statewide rail stakeholders should work through regional and state transportation planning on a regular basis to ensure that their needs and opportunities are understood, and are used to inform any state rail investments or planning efforts.</p> <p>WSDOT should improve recognition of rail-related needs in its highway engineering activities.</p>
<p>Preserve existing rail capacity and infrastructure.</p>	<p>Work with short-line railroads and short-line rail stakeholders to assess short-line rail needs, and create a statewide short-line rail needs inventory.</p> <p>WSDOT should consider the stewardship and upkeep history of any potential rail improvement project.</p> <p>WSDOT should seek to address rail needs in the most cost-effective manner possible.</p> <p>WSDOT should consider strategic state interest when examining the impacts of the loss of rail infrastructure.</p>
<p>Enhance the efficiency and reliability of existing rail services.</p>	<p>WSDOT should periodically re-evaluate its passenger system plans and adjust them as necessary to achieve operational improvements in pursuit of transportation system goals.</p> <p>WSDOT should adopt a formal policy on adding or consolidating stops on Amtrak Cascades.</p> <p>The state should ensure that passenger and freight rail metrics are in place that can appropriately evaluate the performance of mobility, efficiency, safety, reliability and environmental compatibility of proposed new projects.</p>

