

# Rail System Priorities and Goals

Needs	Recommendations
<p><b>Employ cost-effective strategies when investing public funds in the state's rail system.</b></p>	<p>WSDOT should use performance metrics to evaluate its passenger and freight rail programs, and ensure that the program funding is aligned with demonstrated need.</p> <p>The state should seek innovative funding and financing sources to leverage public funds and provide more value with limited resources.</p> <p>WSDOT will focus on the specific requirements of Amtrak Cascades service to minimize public costs and operate the system in the most efficient manner possible.</p>
<p><b>Strengthen rail to maximize the positive benefits, while minimizing the potential negative impacts to communities and the environment.</b></p>	<p>The state should facilitate discussions about community concerns or questions about rail benefits and impacts, and help coordinate with communities, the railroads and other rail stakeholders.</p> <p>Railroads and public agencies should continue to use WSDOT reports, studies and other materials to clearly communicate the benefits of the rail system to Washington residents.</p>
<p><b>Continue to support passenger and freight rail safety and security.</b></p>	<p>The state should continue to support rail safety and security.</p> <p>WSDOT should continue to coordinate pedestrian access in and around Amtrak Cascades stations in order to meet safety performance goals.</p>

