

Amtrak Cascades: 2017 Performance Data Report

Performance Dashboard – 2017

Overview – 2017

Amtrak Cascades Corridor (calendar year 2017 unless otherwise noted):

- 10-Year Ridership with Historical References – 2008-2017
- 10-Year Ridership by Funding Partners – 2008-2017
- 10-Year Ticket Revenue by Funding Partners – 2008-2017
- 10-Year Passenger Miles by Segment – 2008-2017
- 5-Year Monthly Ridership Comparison – 2013-2017
- 5-Year Monthly Ticket Revenue Comparison – 2013-2017
- Annual Ridership by Segment – 2017
- Annual Station On-Offs – 2017
- Annual Ticket Revenues by City Pair – 2017
- Annual Ticket Revenues by Station – 2017

Washington-Supported Amtrak Cascades Service:

- 10-Year On-Time Performance – 2008-2017 (calendar year)
- Total Operating Cost, Revenue & Farebox Recovery Rate – 2008-2017 (federal fiscal year)

WSDOT Rail, Freight, and Ports Division

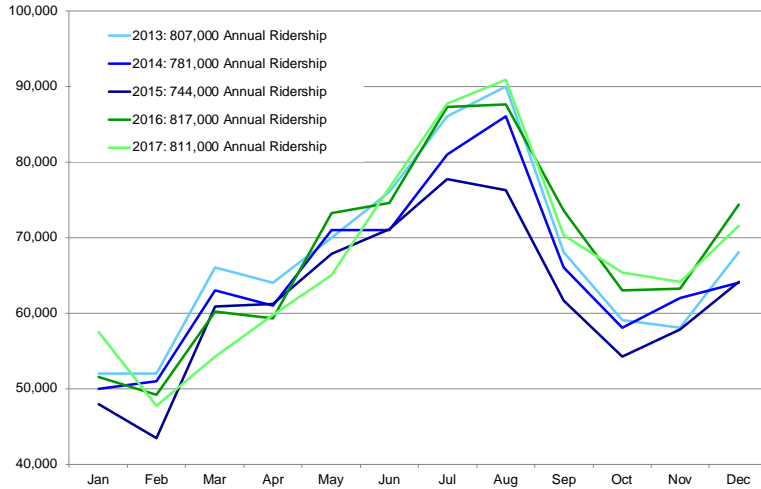
March 2018

Contact: rail@wsdot.wa.gov or 360-705-7900

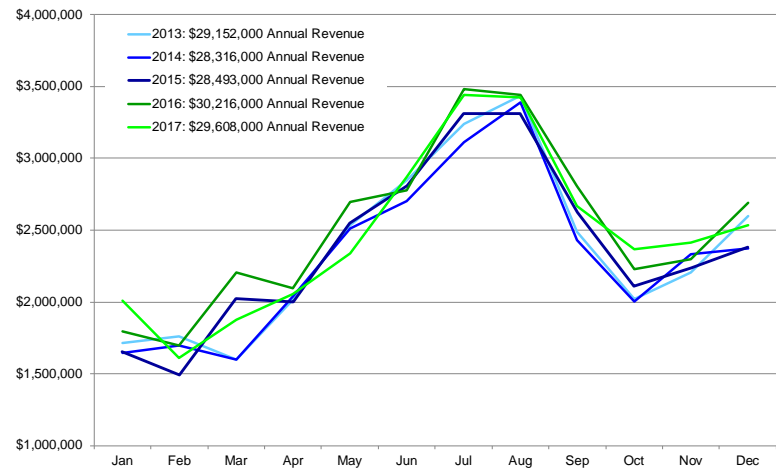
Performance Dashboard – 2017

In 2017, Amtrak Cascades transported 811,000 riders with \$29,608,000 in ticket revenue.

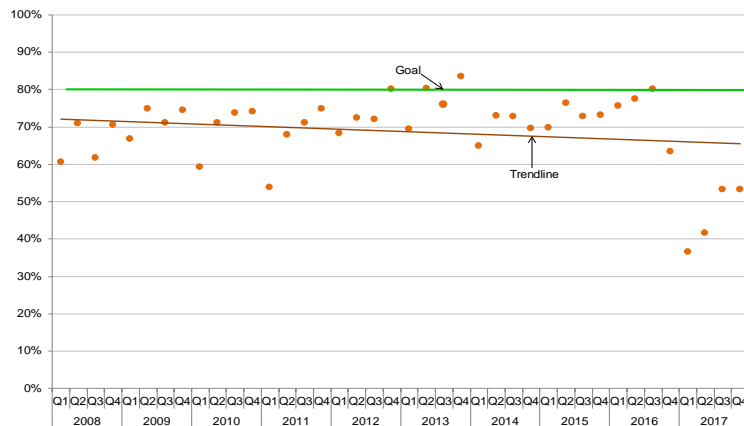
5-Year Monthly Ridership Comparison – 2013-2017



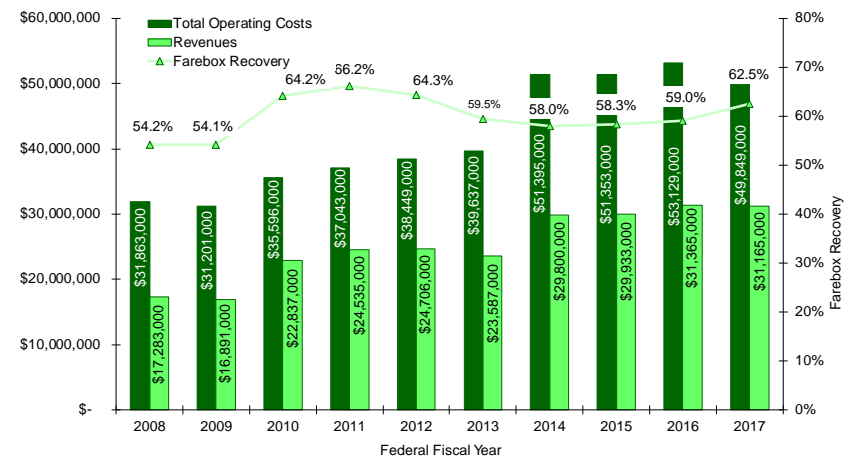
5-Year Monthly Ticket Revenue Comparison – 2013-2017



10-Year On-Time Performance – 2008-2017 Washington-supported trains only



Total Operating Cost, Revenue & Farebox Recovery Rate – FFY2008-2017 Washington-supported trains only



Overview – 2017

The Amtrak Cascades intercity passenger rail system is a service of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT). As an owner of the system and a good steward of state funds, WSDOT is committed to monitoring and reporting on Amtrak Cascades' performance.

This 2017 Annual Performance Data Report provides an historical perspective that portrays trends in ridership, ticket revenues, passenger miles, on-time performance, and operating costs. It is designed to offer a quick reference for citizens, policymakers, and stakeholders interested in understanding how the state-run passenger rail program performs.

When assessing historical trends, it is important to note that a significant shift in responsibilities occurred in 2013 that affected the service. On October 1, 2013, the federal government shifted responsibility for funding Amtrak Cascades services completely to the states, in accordance with the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008. WSDOT and ODOT now contract with Amtrak to operate the Amtrak Cascades service. Since Amtrak no longer contributes financially to the operation, the service is now funded completely by ticket revenues and state funds. As a result, the state of Washington incurred higher costs starting in FFY 2014.

In 2010, WSDOT successfully competed for federal funding of passenger rail capital improvements that over the last seven years allowed it to deliver critical infrastructure projects to enhance the Amtrak Cascades program. These projects were completed in 2017. In the short-term, interruptions caused by these construction projects contributed to a drop in ridership in 2014 and 2015. However, with the completion of projects and enhancement of WSDOT's marketing program, ridership numbers increased in 2016 and 2017. Moreover, WSDOT was able to maintain ticket revenue levels and decrease operating costs in order to improve the farebox recovery rate in 2017.

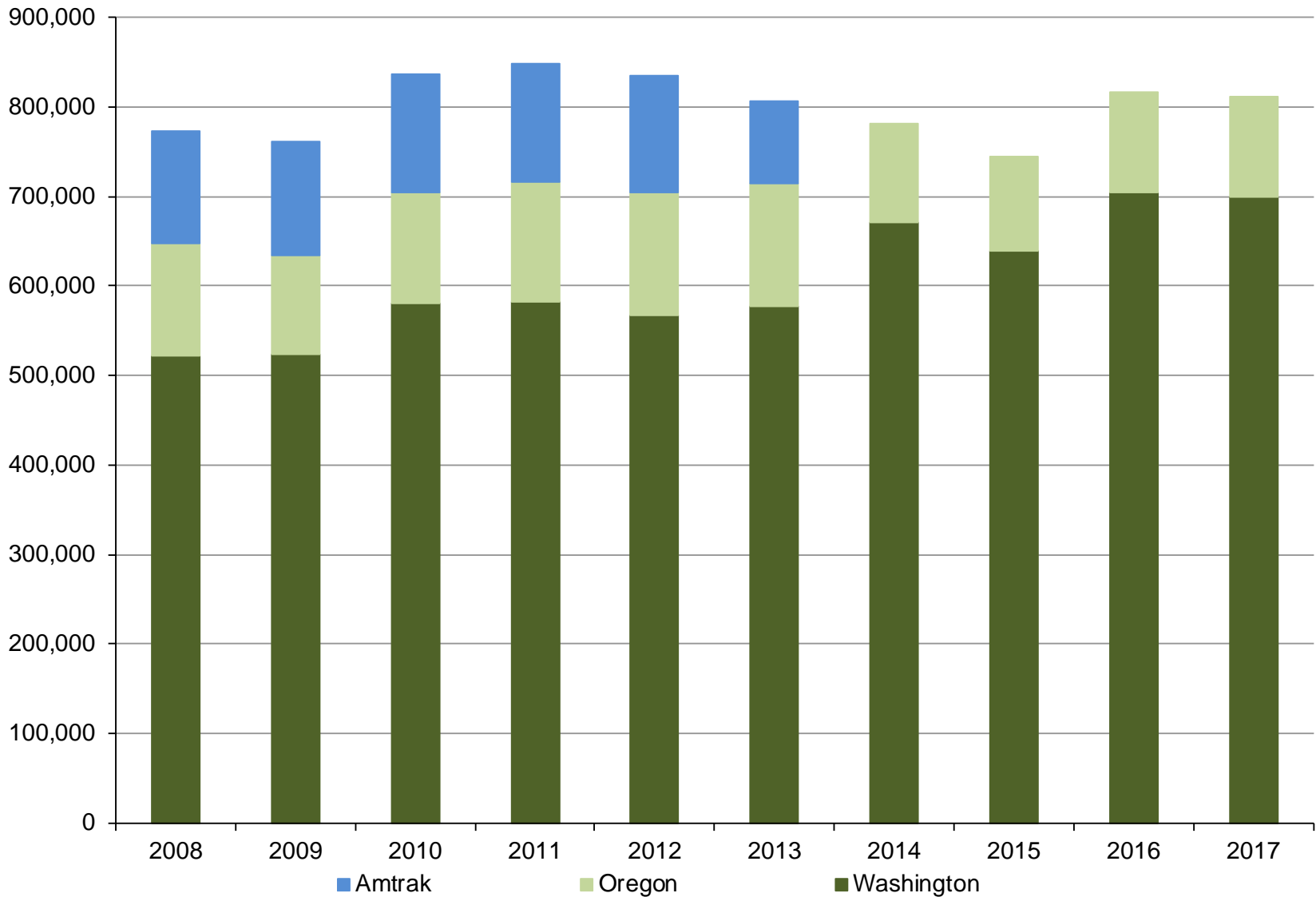
The long-term goal is for both ridership and revenue figures to increase in the years ahead as WSDOT adds two more daily round trips between Seattle and Portland, with shorter travel times between the two cities, and an increase in on-time reliability throughout the corridor.

10-Year Ridership with Historical References – 2008-2017

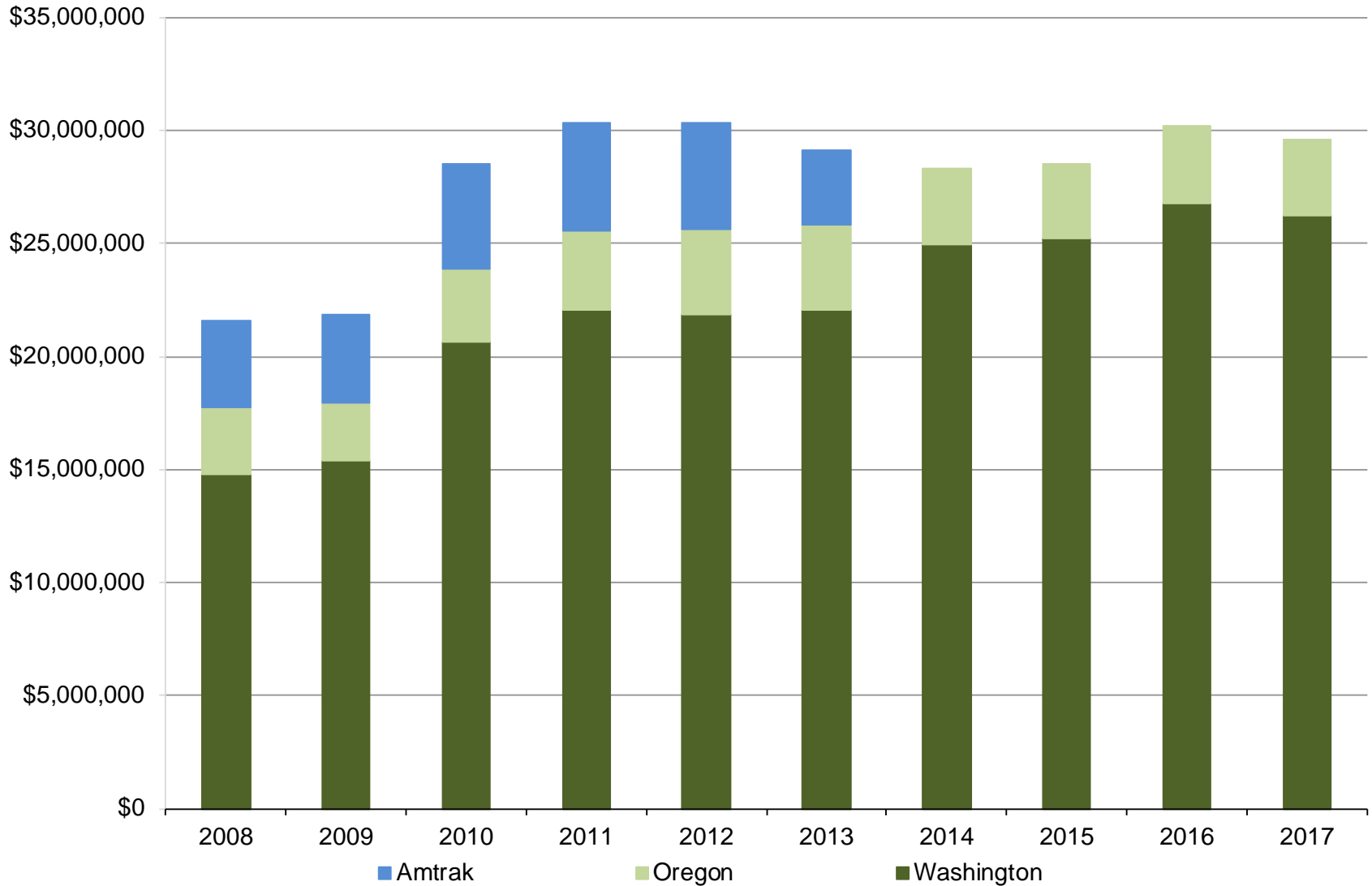
| Year | Ridership | Highlights |
|------|-----------|--|
| 2017 | 811,000 | All remaining ARRA-funded capital projects completed. WSDOT's Stay Back From The Tracks safety campaign launched. Point Defiance Bypass derailment in December. |
| 2016 | 817,000 | Ridership increased by approximately 10% over the previous year. Five of WSDOT's ARRA program construction projects completed, for a total of 14 of 20 projects completed. Pets on Trains program began in March. |
| 2015 | 744,000 | New Tukwila Station dedicated in February. 20 years of Amtrak Cascades service commemorated at Pacific Central Station in Vancouver, British Columbia. |
| 2014 | 781,000 | ODOT added two trainsets to the Amtrak Cascades service: Mt. Bachelor and Mt. Jefferson. |
| 2013 | 807,000 | WSDOT and ODOT assumed all operations costs not covered by ticket revenues; federal assistance eliminated. |
| 2012 | 836,000 | Second phase of major upgrades to Seattle's King Street Station began |
| 2011 | 848,000 | Free WiFi service added. WSDOT/federal rail construction program began. Agreement reached with Canada to continue second train to Vancouver, British Columbia. Amtrak Cascades broke all-time ridership record. |
| 2010 | 838,000 | WSDOT awarded \$800 million in federal funds for capital improvement projects. |
| 2009 | 762,000 | WSDOT extended Bellingham/Seattle service to Vancouver, British Columbia for second daily round trip to Canada. |
| 2008 | 775,000 | |

Ridership numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000.

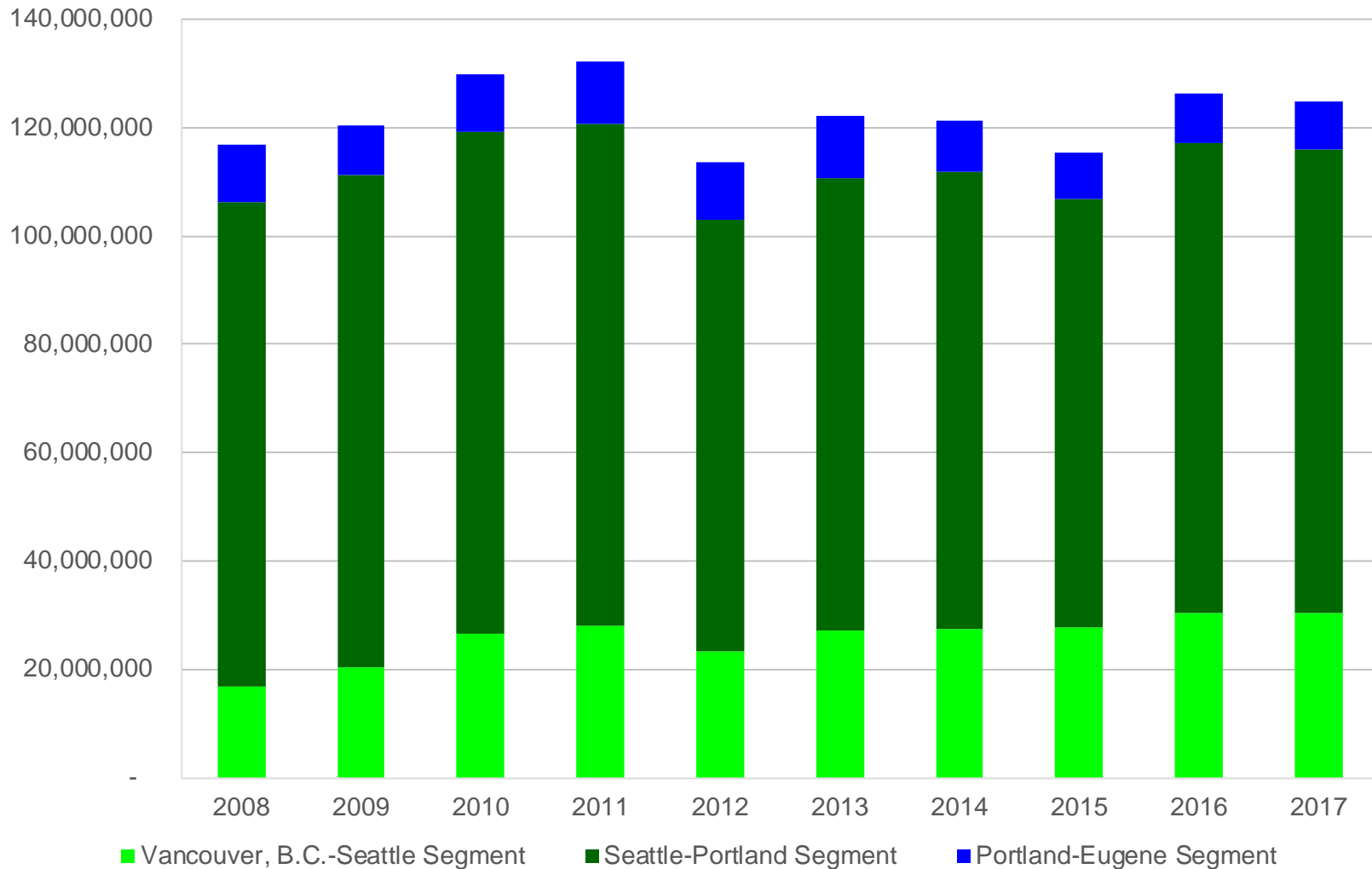
10-Year Ridership by Funding Partners – 2008-2017



10-Year Ticket Revenue by Funding Partners – 2008-2017

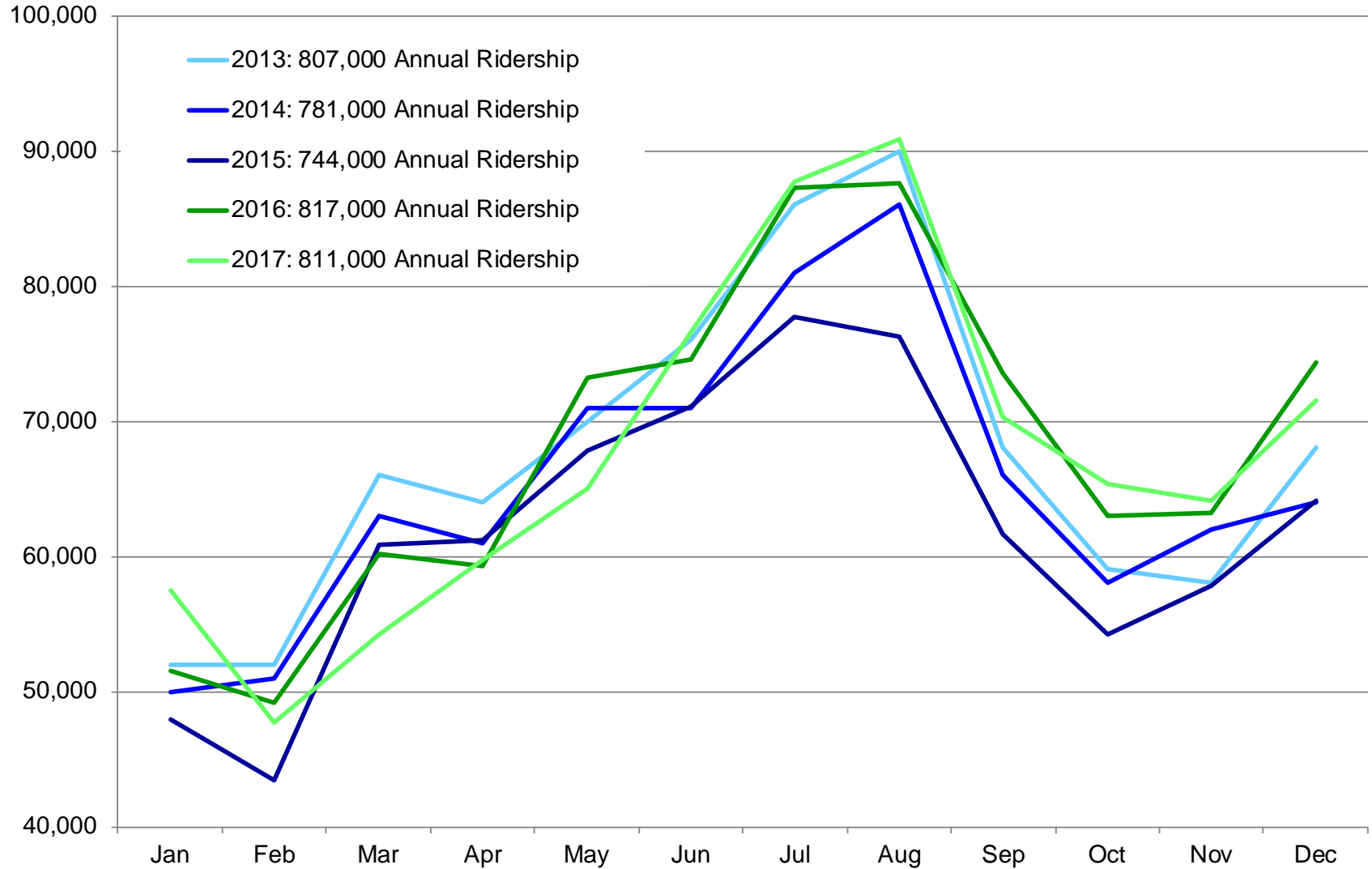


10-Year Passenger Miles* by Segment – 2008-2017

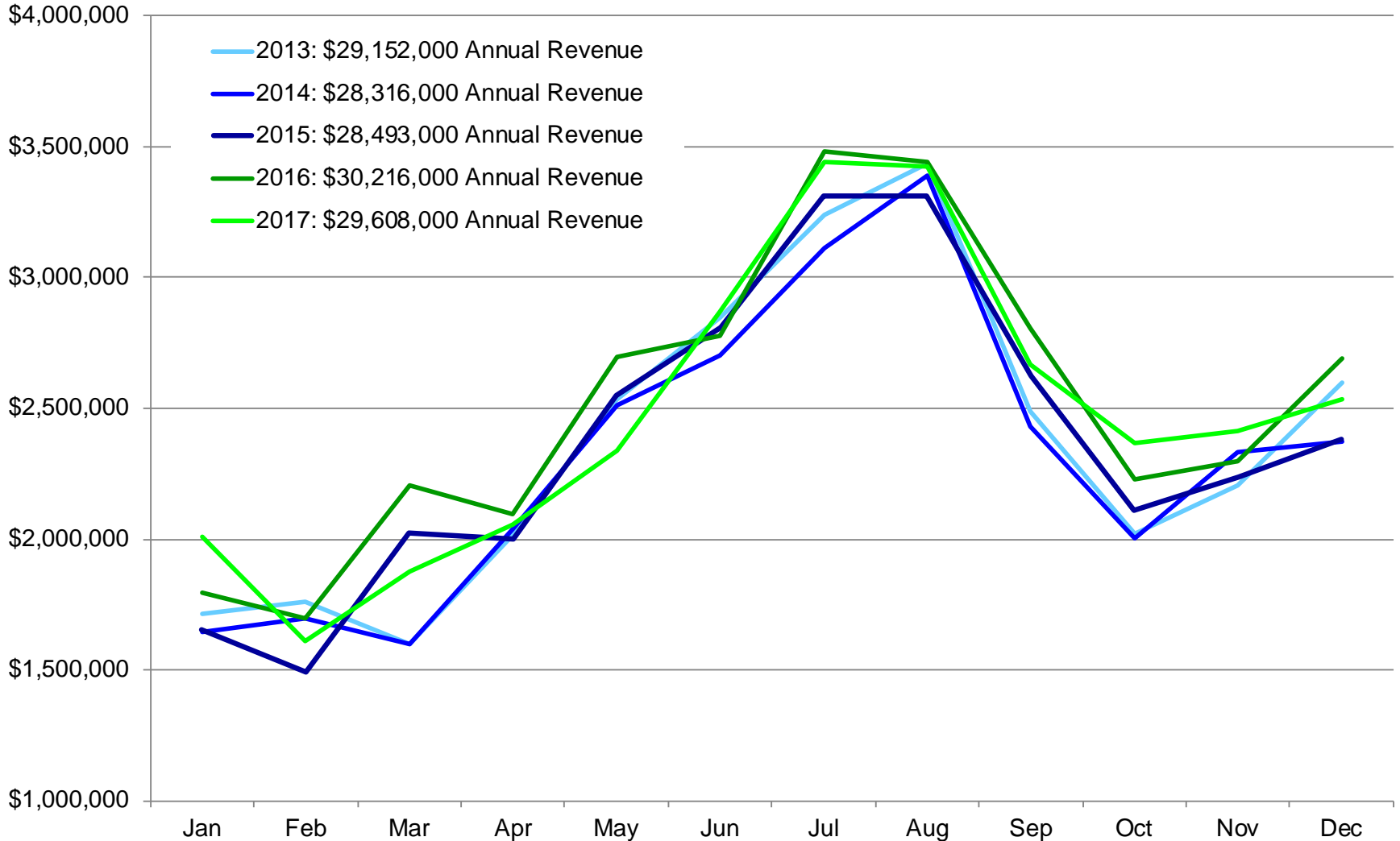


*Passenger miles are the person miles traveled specifically by Amtrak Cascades passengers between their origins and destinations along the rail line.

5-Year Monthly Ridership Comparison – 2013-2017



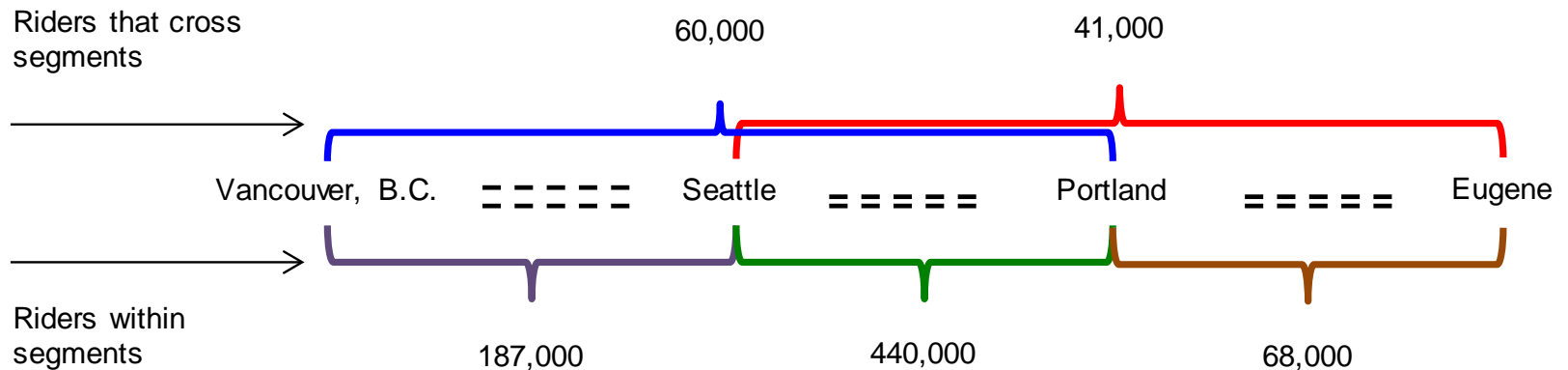
5-Year Monthly Ticket Revenue Comparison – 2013-2017



Annual Ridership by Segment – 2017

*Total Ridership for 2017 = 811,000**

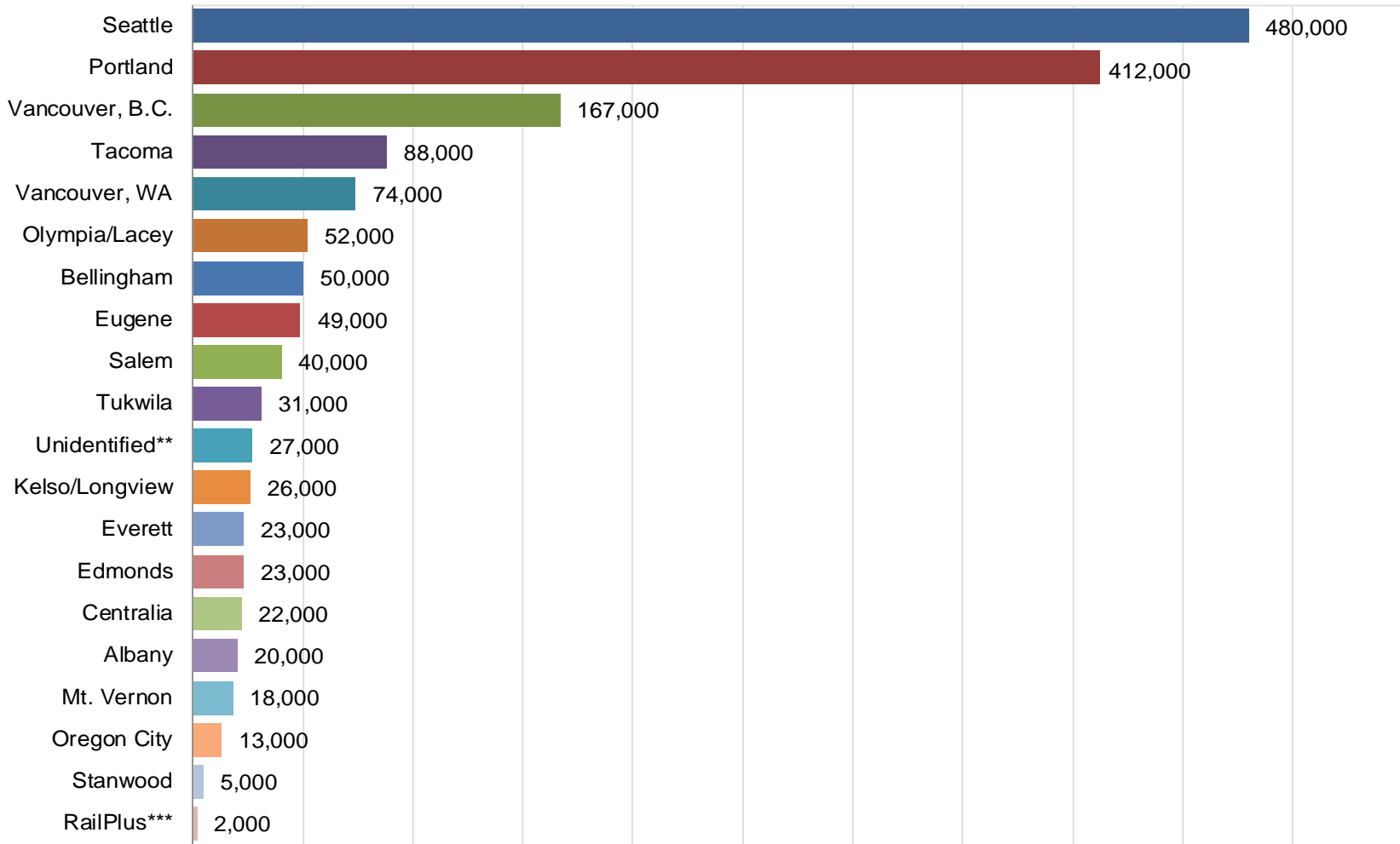
Insight into travel patterns can be gained by looking at where riders travel. The three segments of the Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor are defined as between Eugene and Portland, between Portland and Seattle, and between Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia. Individual trains can operate within a segment or across. When a rider boards the train in one segment and gets off the train in another (for example, boards in Bellingham and gets off in Olympia), that rider is said to “cross segments” as depicted along the top of the graphic below. Ridership values do not include transfers. Understanding where riders travel is a useful way to see how the entire corridor operates as a unified system.



In addition to the ridership above, there were over 13,000 riders that either deferred their trip to another date or were unidentified by Amtrak and almost 1,000 passengers that used Sound Transit’s RailPlus program to travel between Everett and Seattle.

*Following best practices for rounding, each segment is rounded to the nearest 1,000. There is a calculation difference of 1,000 riders between the sum of the individual segments and the total ridership. This difference is within acceptable tolerance for direct rounding.

Annual Station On-Offs* – 2017

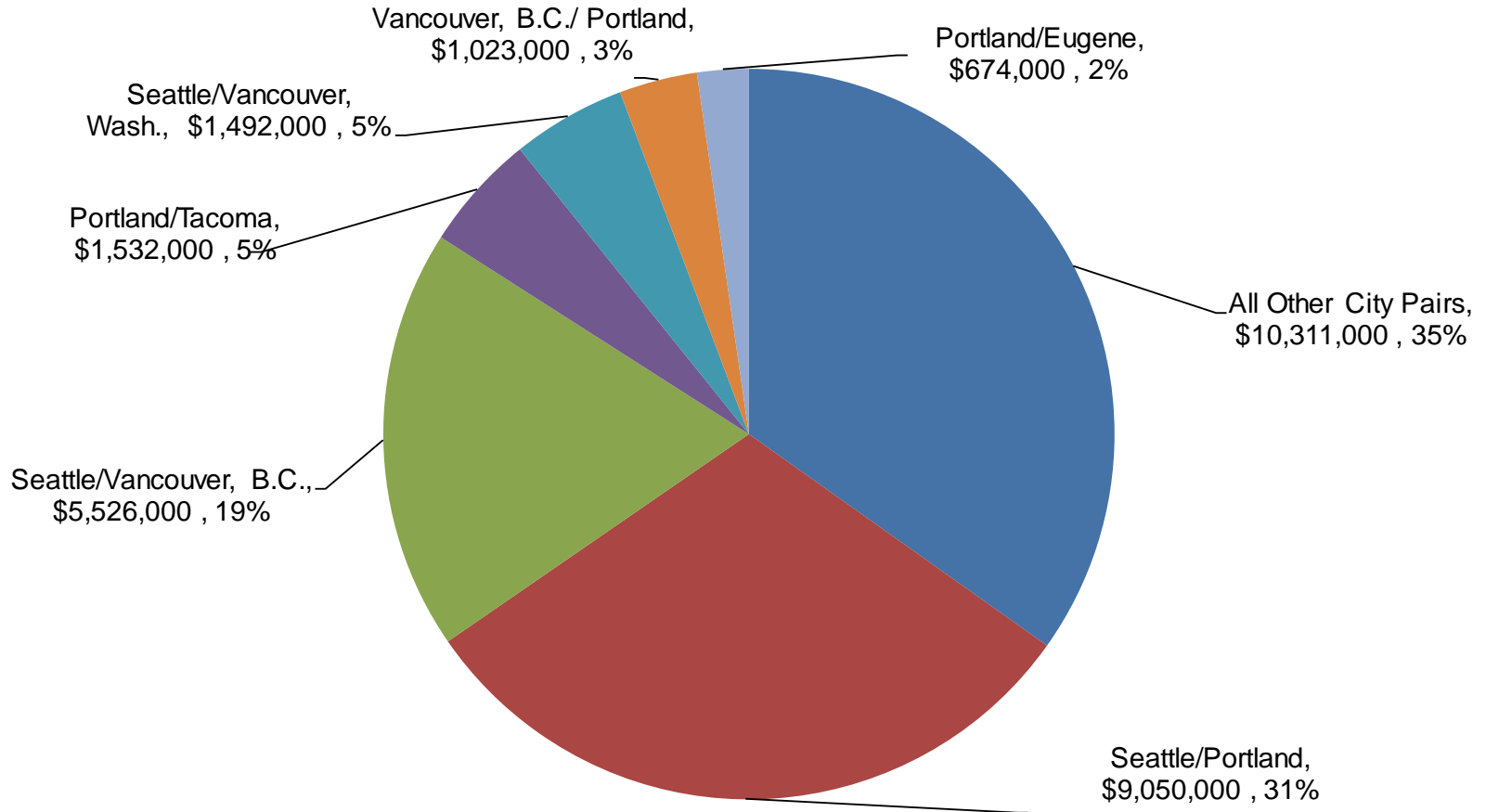


*On-Offs are a measurement of how many passengers got on and off the train at each station.

**Unidentified passengers either deferred their trip to another day or their tickets were not scanned by Amtrak.

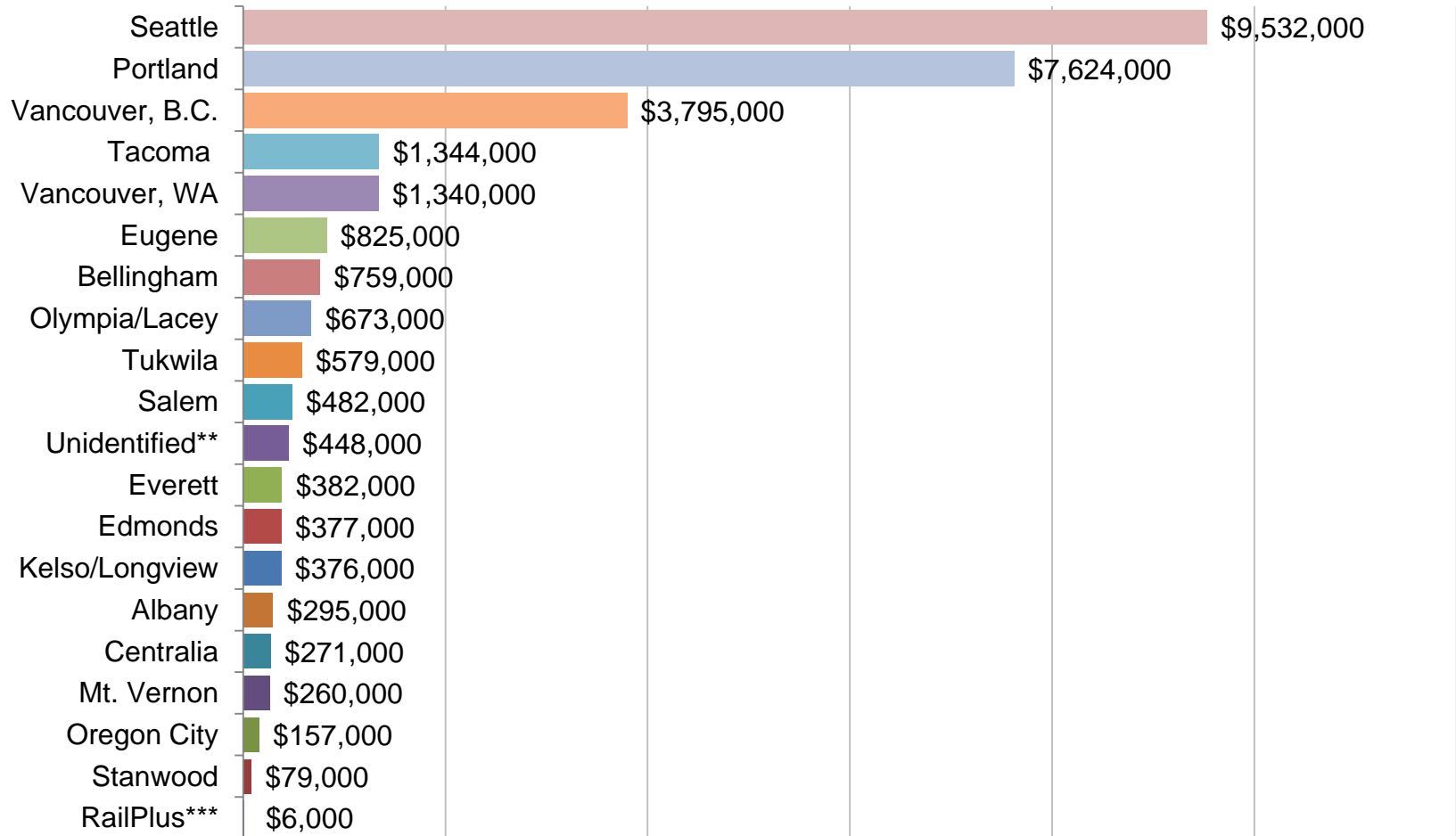
***RailPlus are riders transferring from Sound Transit to Amtrak Cascades.

Annual Ticket Revenues by City Pair – 2017



Top six city pairs = \$19,297,000, 65%
All city pairs = \$29,608,000

Annual Ticket* Revenues by Station – 2017



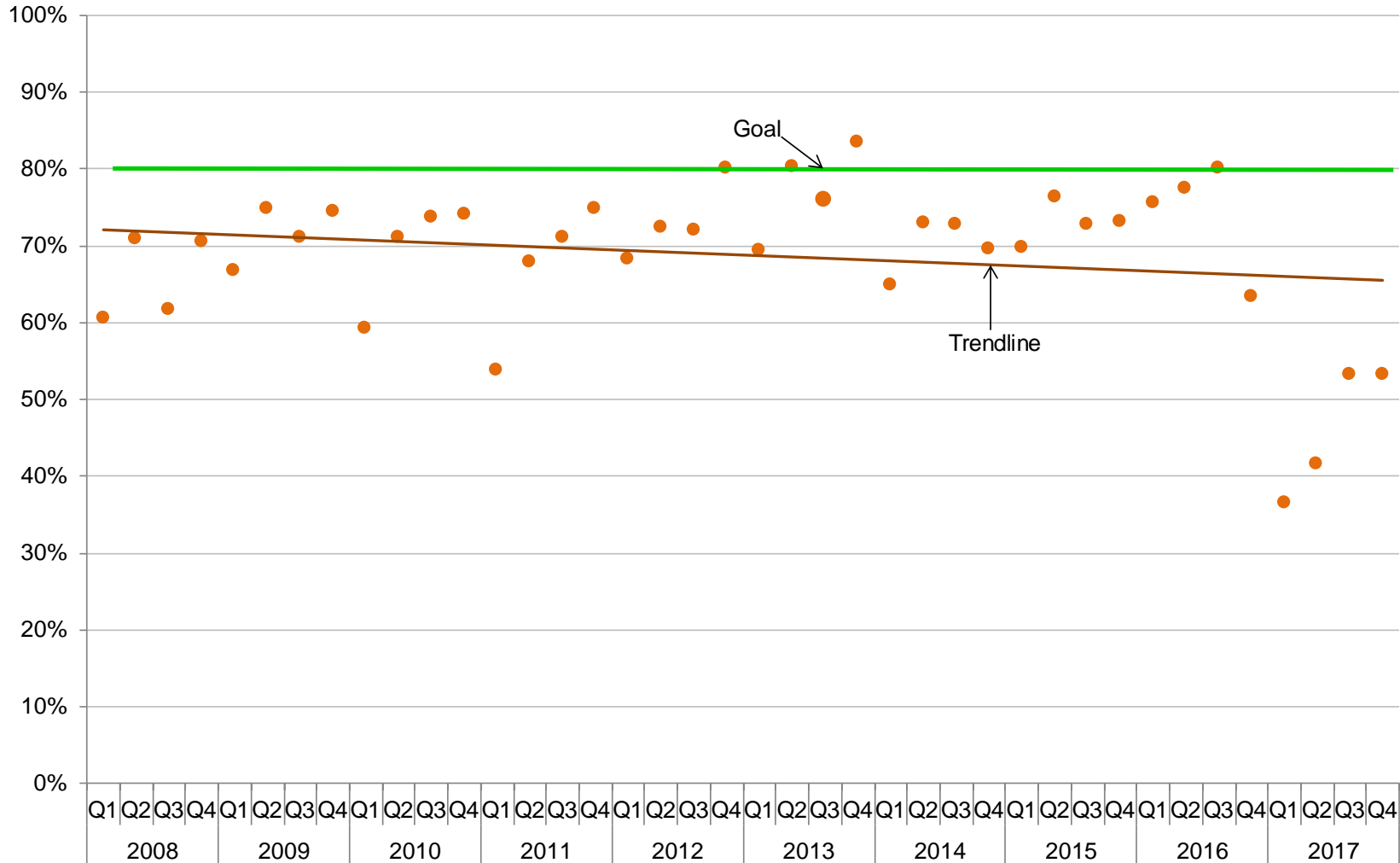
*A passenger ticket provides passage between two stations – origin station and destination station. Ticket revenue for each ticket is split equally between the origin and the destination stations.

**Unidentified passengers either deferred their trip to another day or their tickets were not scanned by Amtrak.

***RailPlus are riders transferring from Sound Transit to Amtrak Cascades.

10-Year On-Time Performance – 2008-2017

Washington-supported trains only



Total Operating Cost, Revenue and Farebox Recovery Rate – FFY 2008-2017, Washington-supported trains only

