

# High Performance Rail

**Our rail corridors are most productive when they move both people and goods efficiently, safely and reliably.**

High Performance Rail explores ways to enhance railroad capacity to better serve freight customers while expanding passenger rail service for rural and underserved communities.

Through partnerships with our Class 1 (BNSF and UP) and short line railroads, Amtrak, tribal nations, state DOTs, local communities, ports, and shippers, High Performance Rail identifies strategic opportunities for joint investment in the Pacific Northwest rail network.

These public-private partnerships will bring capital investments to our supply chains, increase community safety and passenger rail service and expedite the movement of commodities to ports and global markets with fewer emissions and lower business and consumer costs.

By eliminating bottlenecks, enhancing inter- and multi-modal freight connections and increasing reliability, the Northwest has an opportunity to expand and enhance passenger rail in these corridors:

- Amtrak Cascades | Vancouver, BC to Eugene, OR
- Amtrak Empire Builder | Seattle to Chicago via northern Montana
- Big Sky North Coast Corridor | Seattle to Chicago via southern Montana
- Pioneer Line | Seattle to Salt Lake City via Portland and Boise
- Amtrak Coast Starlight | Seattle to Los Angeles via Portland



Dive deeper on High Performance Rail  
**Greater Northwest Rail Summit**  
Oct. 16-18, 2025 | Portland, OR

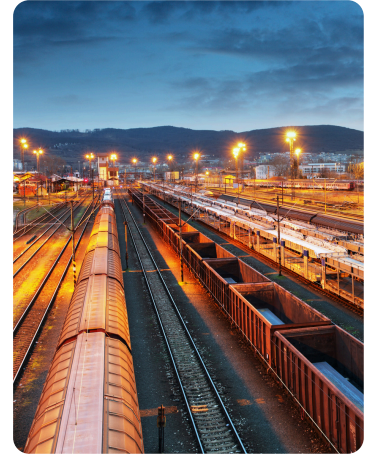


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## The ABCs of High Performance Rail

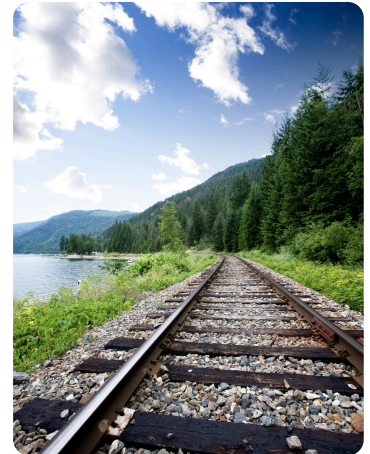
### Accelerating Economic Growth

- Optimize NW supply chains by reducing friction and delays in rail corridors through capital investment and technological advances
- Expand employment opportunities for Tribal nations, rural communities, and manufacturing and tourism centers connected by rail
- Enhance truck/rail/barge transload terminals and intermodal facilities for agriculture and other commodity exports
- Modernize short line and port access to mainline rail corridors through joint public private investment and tax credits



### Benefiting the Environment

- Reduce emissions and congestion on highways and near our seaports by transporting more freight by rail rather than by trucks (1 train = 280 trucks)
- Accelerate the transition to clean energy by investing in technological advances in low emission locomotives, rail yard electrification, and hydrogen propulsion for trains
- Restore fish and wildlife habitat through railroad culvert rehabilitation and separated crossings



### Connecting More Communities

- Provide weather-resilient travel options for rural residents and tribal nations so they can access healthcare, higher education centers, airports, and jobs centers
- Restore communities impacted by railroad tracks by eliminating highway-rail gate crossings, resulting in reduced emergency response time, reduced train noise, and increased safety for community members
- Stimulate new housing, retail and commercial development through train station construction and/or restoration

