



The *value* of passenger trains on Oregon’s Cascades Corridor:

1. Oregon’s Cascades passenger trains are a “text-book” *rail project of state-wide significance*: continuance and expansion of these trains are vital parts of meeting the state’s goal of reducing highway congestion and meeting its environmental targets (biodiesel fuels and future electrification).
2. Comparing equivalent capacity, one mile of railroad costs far less to build and maintain than one mile of interstate highway. The resulting infrastructure creates far less environmental impact. (State of Oregon goal)
3. Trains better utilize fossil fuel resources; they are cleaner and greener. (State of Oregon goal)
4. Oregon’s Amtrak Cascades Talgo trainsets are the newest, most technologically advanced, most ADA compliant transportation mode in the country. They are equipped with wheelchair lifts, fully certified restroom facilities, and wide passageways between the bistro/dining cars and adjacent coaches.
5. Frequently, through-service operates at near capacity; some are sold out between certain points.
6. Greater frequency increases ridership by allowing train schedules to fit more travelers’ schedules.
7. Passenger transportation modes (air, highway, marine, and trains) are governmentally subsidized in every country, here’s how Oregonians benefit: Portland-Klamath Falls, air \$220.00 rt (Alaska or Penair, receiving Federal and local subsidies, connecting *only* two points, Portland and Klamath Falls) v. train \$105.00 rt (Amtrak Coast Starlight receiving Federal subsidy, connecting thirty-one route stations between Seattle and Los Angeles, including five in Oregon), pricing on days for lowest airfares.
8. Greater, more cost effective utilization of total passenger train infrastructure, i.e., stations, ticket agents, gate, baggage, and platform support staff...plus, human personnel at stations brings greater individual contact with the traveling public and therefore greater public safety.
9. Eight new Siemens locomotives, purchased by the state of Washington and built in Sacramento, are now being tested in our Cascades Corridor and at the AAR test facility in Pueblo, Colorado. These will circulate in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia and will meet Tier IV emissions standards, operate at speeds up to 125 mph, and offer enhanced, proven reliability.
10. Cost-effective investment continues long after construction, since passenger railroading offers good-paying, full-time employment on-board and at maintenance facilities and stations, i.e., family wage jobs.
11. Corridor mobility offers competitive travel times vs. congested, dangerous highways.
12. Cascades trains provide convenient, multi-modal connectivity with Amtrak trains, thruway buses, and connecting air and sea terminals (PDX, SEA, Victoria ferry terminal, Pacific Central Station, Vancouver, B.C., Canada).
13. Although comprehensive security measures are in place, riders are not subjected to intrusive, time-consuming, privacy-violating searches.
14. There are nearly one hundred thousand Oregonians who are Amtrak Guest Reward members.
15. In poll after poll, passenger trains provide “a travel *choice* that Americans want” so:

Support Oregon’s Amtrak Cascades Corridor

More riders – Reduced travel times – Improved on-time performance