



# **Cascadia High Speed Rail**

**Oregon Legislature  
Joint Committee on Transportation**

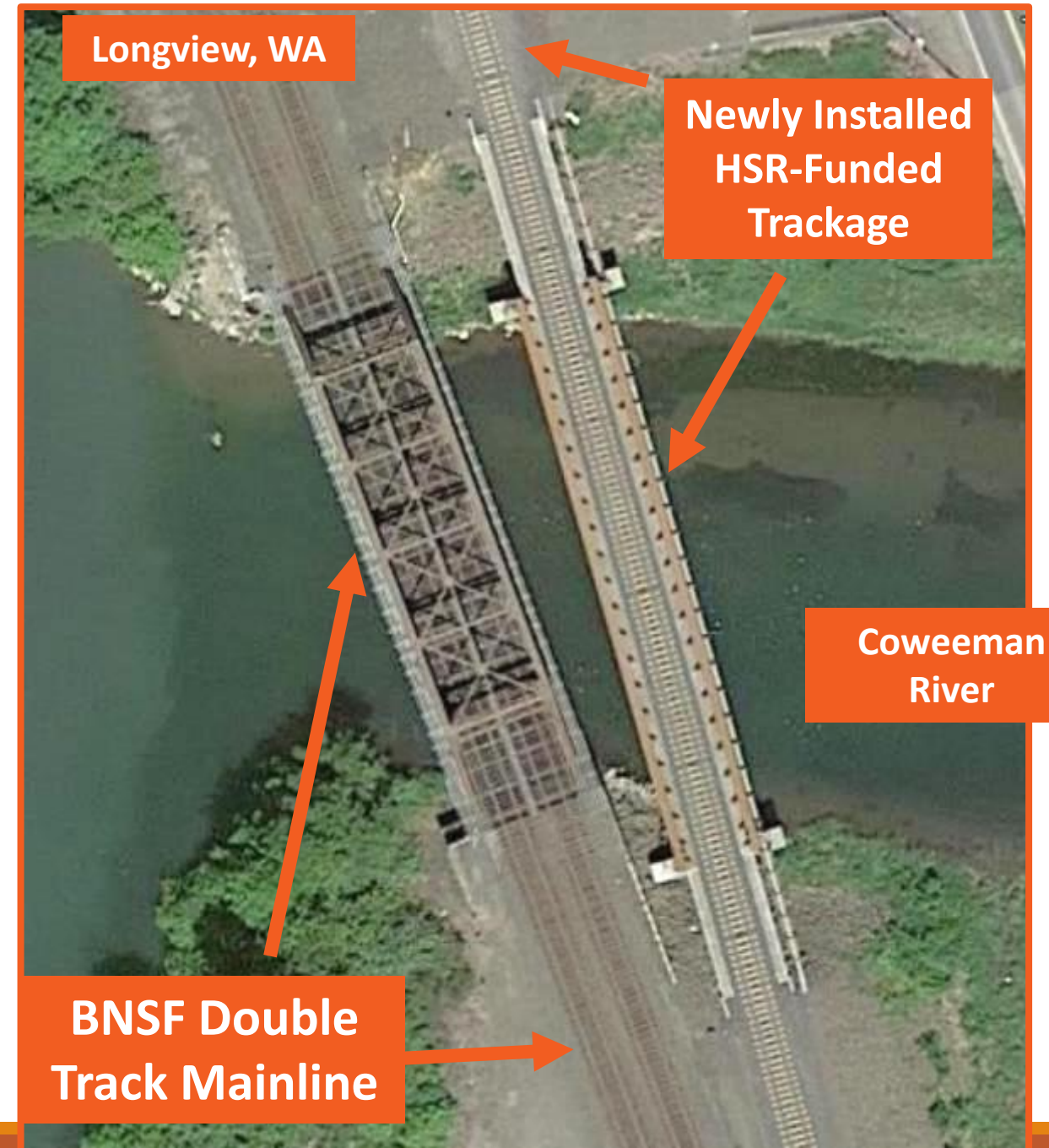
**Bill Burgel**

**Union Pacific Former Regional Chief Dispatcher**

## WSDOT's 2010 High Speed Rail (PRIIA) Application

Premise:

- (1) \$800M was allocated
- (2) Single track designed for intercity passenger trains at 25-foot track centers
- (3) Initially, BNSF asked to have segments constructed where their greatest industrial impact is located.
- (4) Only a portion of the total project was funded





# Issues with Co-mingling Passenger & Freight

- (1) On-line Industry
- (2) Mix of Fast & Slow trains - Overtakes
- (3) No-Fit Trains (economically efficient for freight railroad companies)
- (4) Passenger Train speed limited to 90 mph
- (5) Maintenance of Track



## Port of Kalama

### TERMINAL CA

#### NORTH PORT T

- Berths: Or
- Depth: 43
- Cargo: Bre
- Rail-served



### KALAMA EXPORT COMPANY

- Berths: One
- Depth: 43 ft.
- Cargo: Bulk
- Rail-served: Yes

#2

### LANXESS

- Berths: One
- Depth: 43 ft.
- Cargo: Bulk
- Rail-served: Yes

### RSG FOREST PRODUCTS

- Berths: One
- Depth: 35 ft.
- Cargo: Bulk
- Rail-served: Yes

### TEMCO

- Berths: One
- Depth: 43 ft.
- Cargo: Bulk
- Rail-served: Yes





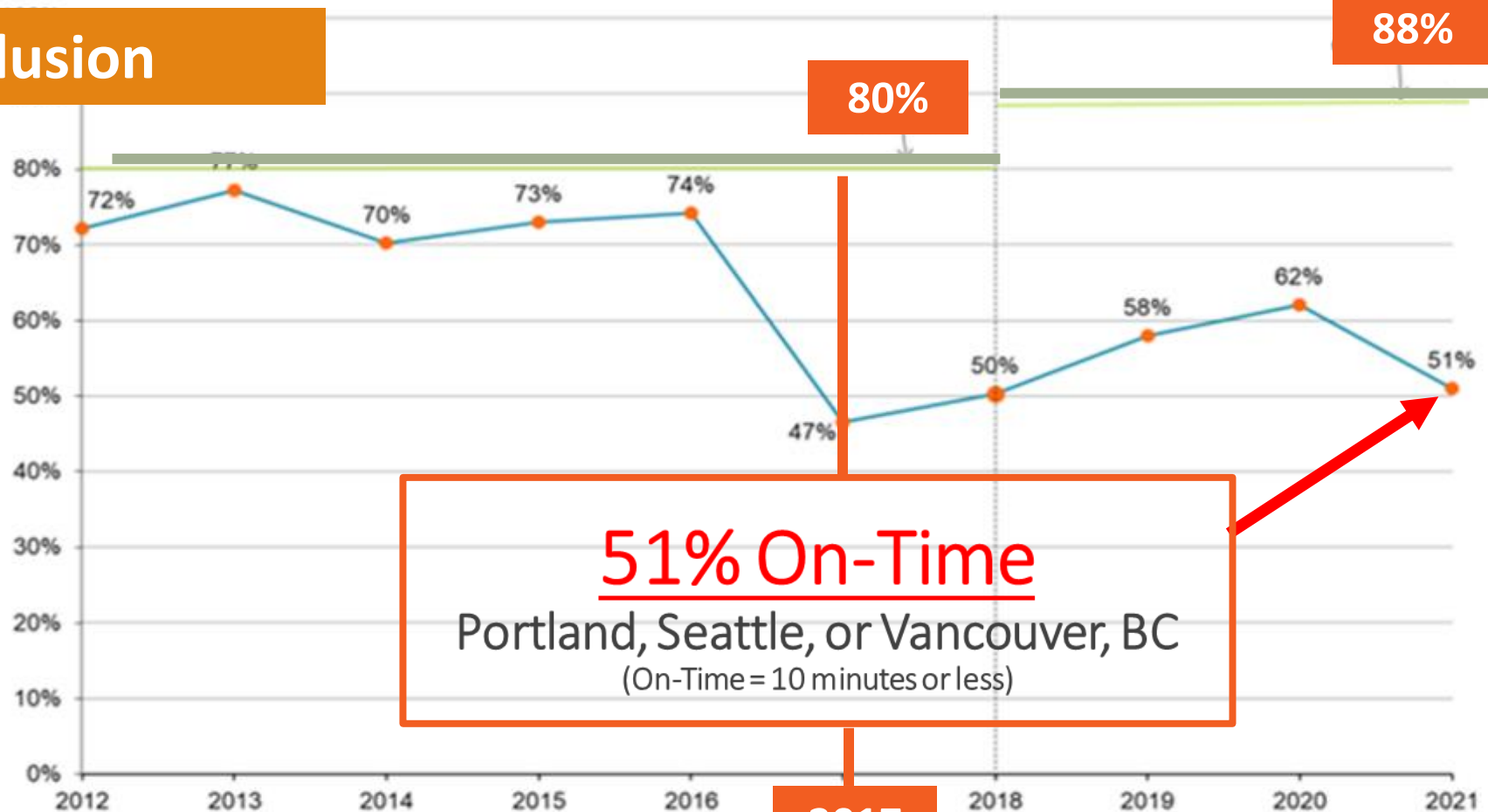
Jurisdictional Issues:  
When Track centers are less 20 feet apart, you are forever required to have BNSF dispatch your trains.



# 10-Year On-Time Performance – 2012-2021

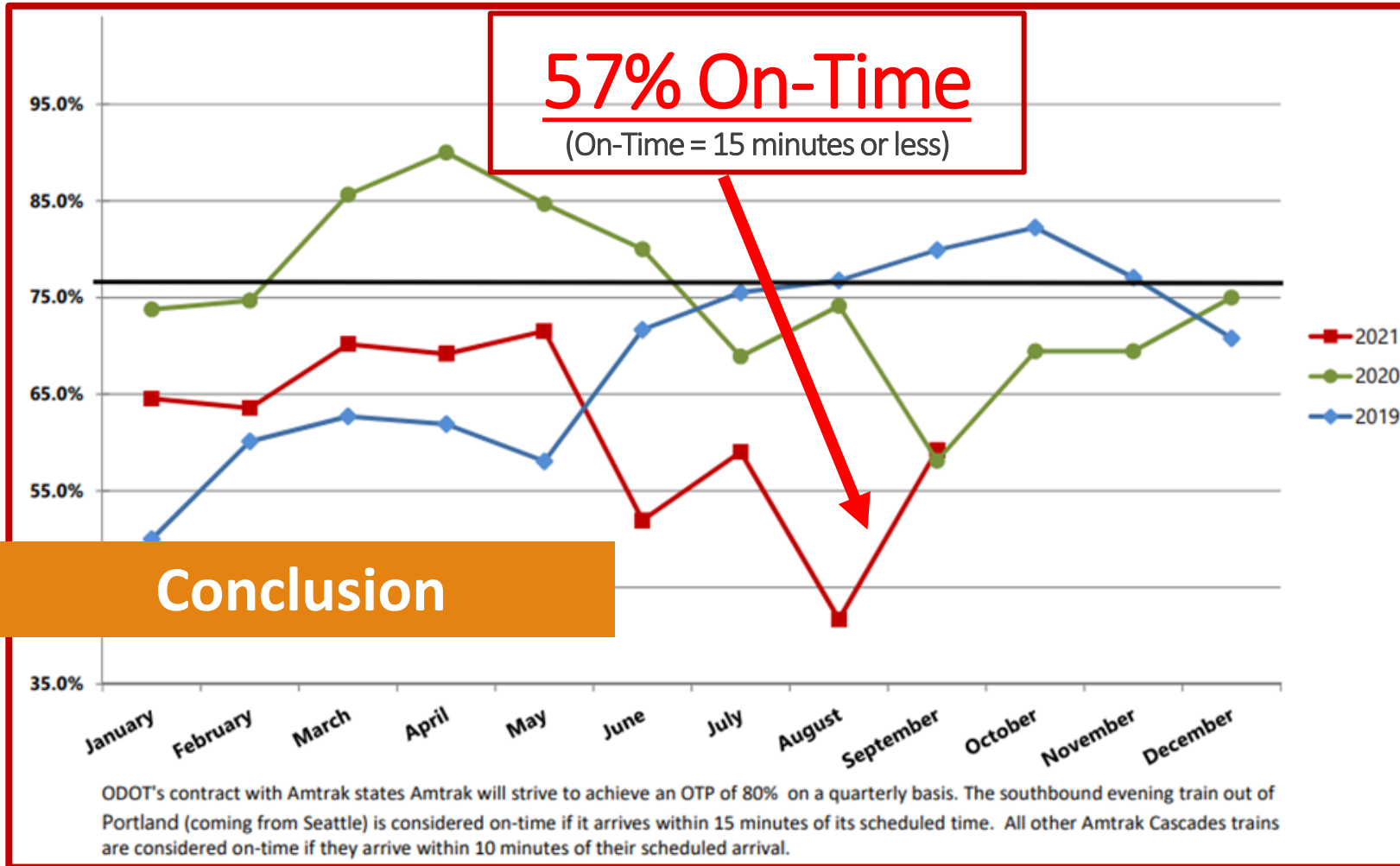
## Washington-supported trains only

### Conclusion



The Service Outcome Agreement counts a train as on-time if it arrives **2017** Seattle, or Vancouver B.C. within 10 minutes or less of the published arrival time. Per the Service Outcome Agreement between Amtrak, BNSF, and WSDOT that took effect in January 2018, the on-time performance goal was raised from 80% to 88%. Between 2012 and 2016, annual on-time performance was relatively stable and ranged between 70% and 77%. It dropped to 47% in 2017, gradually bounced back to 62% percent in 2020, then dropped to 51% in 2021.

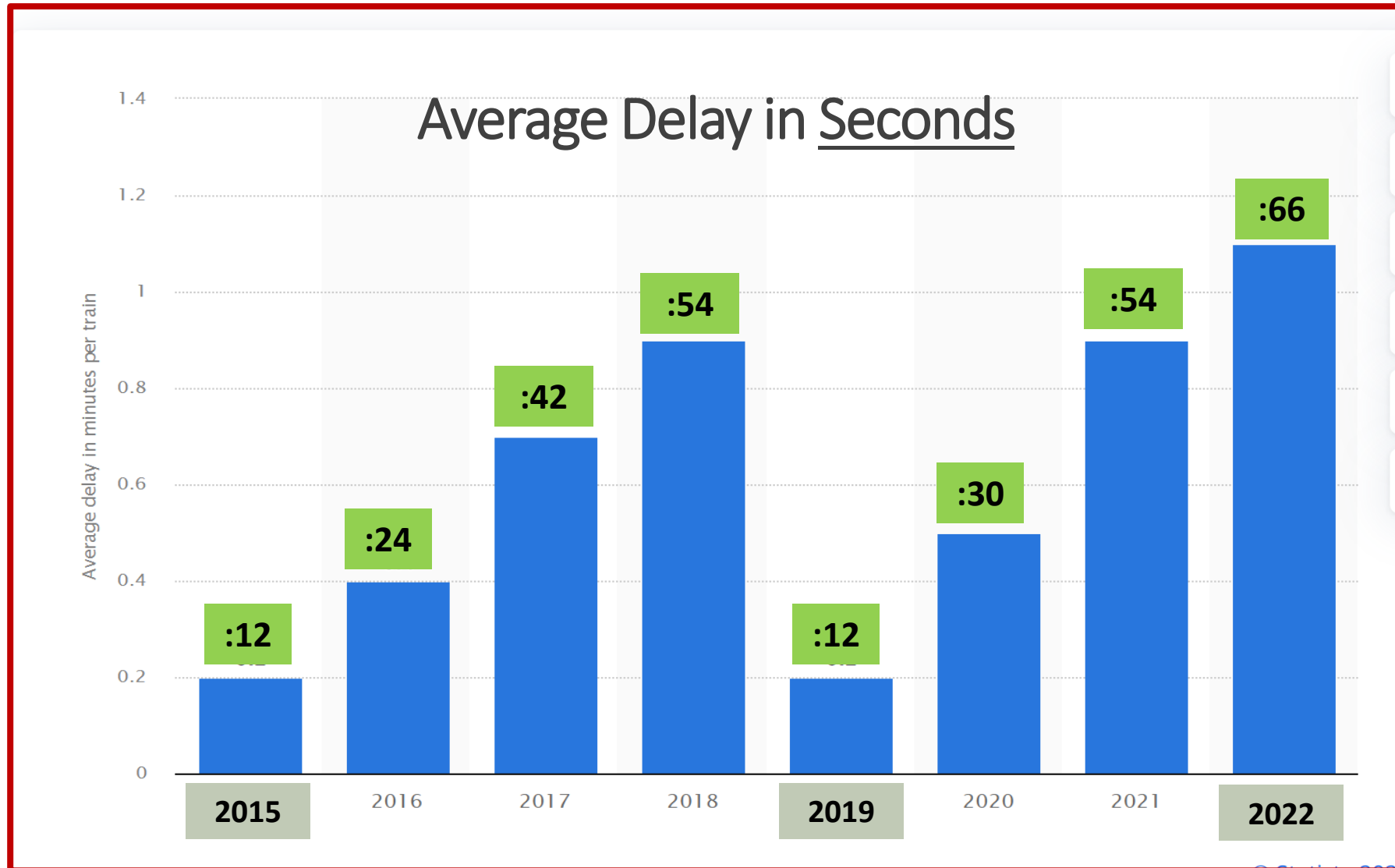
# Eugene – Portland Corridor On-Time Performance



- ❖ Amtrak Cascades is the **WORST**-performing route in the nation
- ❖ 34% reduction in on-time performance from 2013 to 2021
- ❖ 25% increase in freight train length over 10 years
  - From 2008 to 2017, freight train length increased from 6,000' to 7,500'
  - Length expected to grow



# Japan Central Shinkansen - 99% On-Time



# Cascadia High Speed Rail

Oregon Legislature Joint Committee on Transportation



**Keith Wilson**

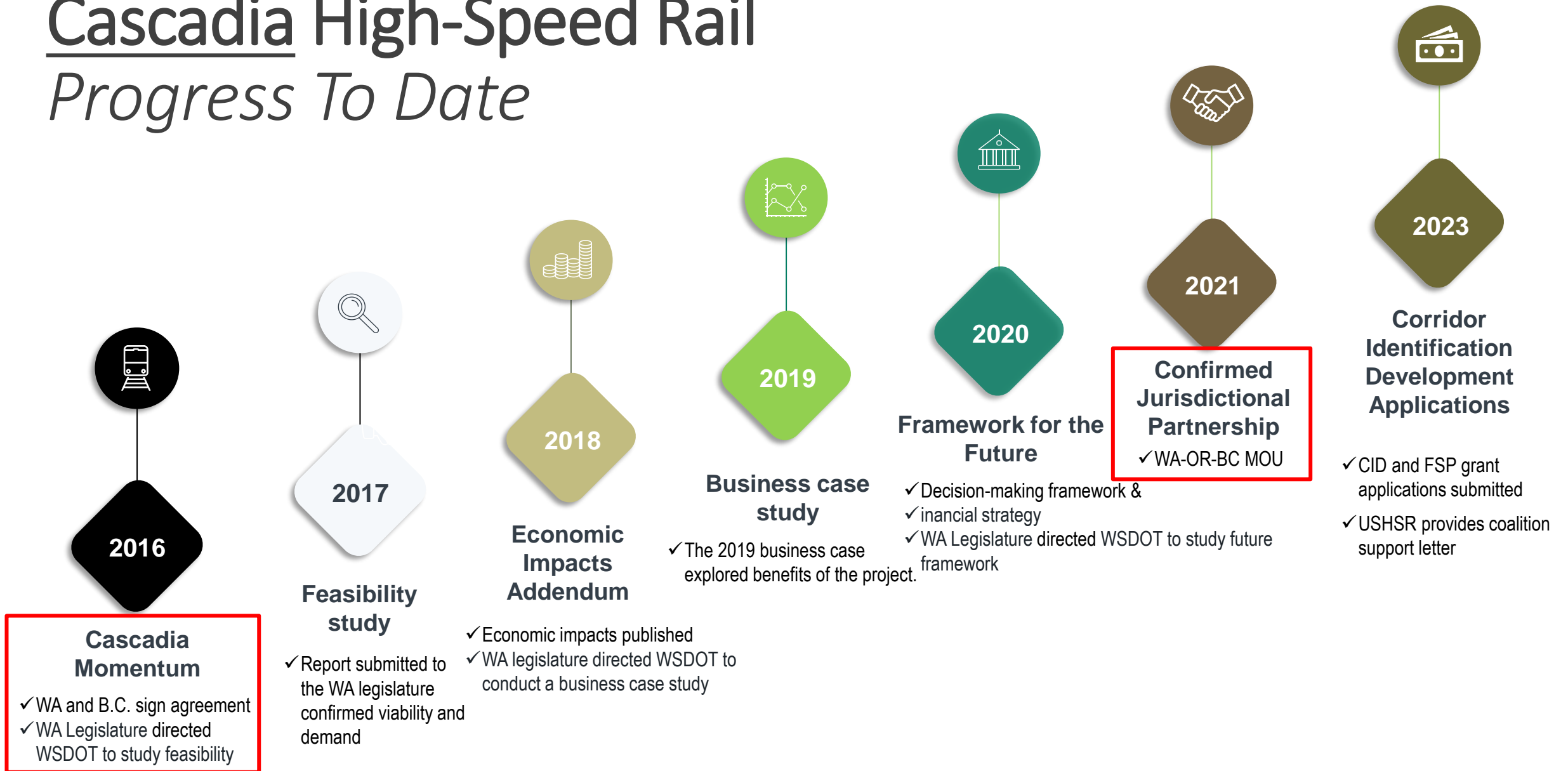
**Executive Committee Member, U.S High Speed Rail Association, Washington, DC**

**President & CEO, TITAN Freight Systems, Portland, OR**



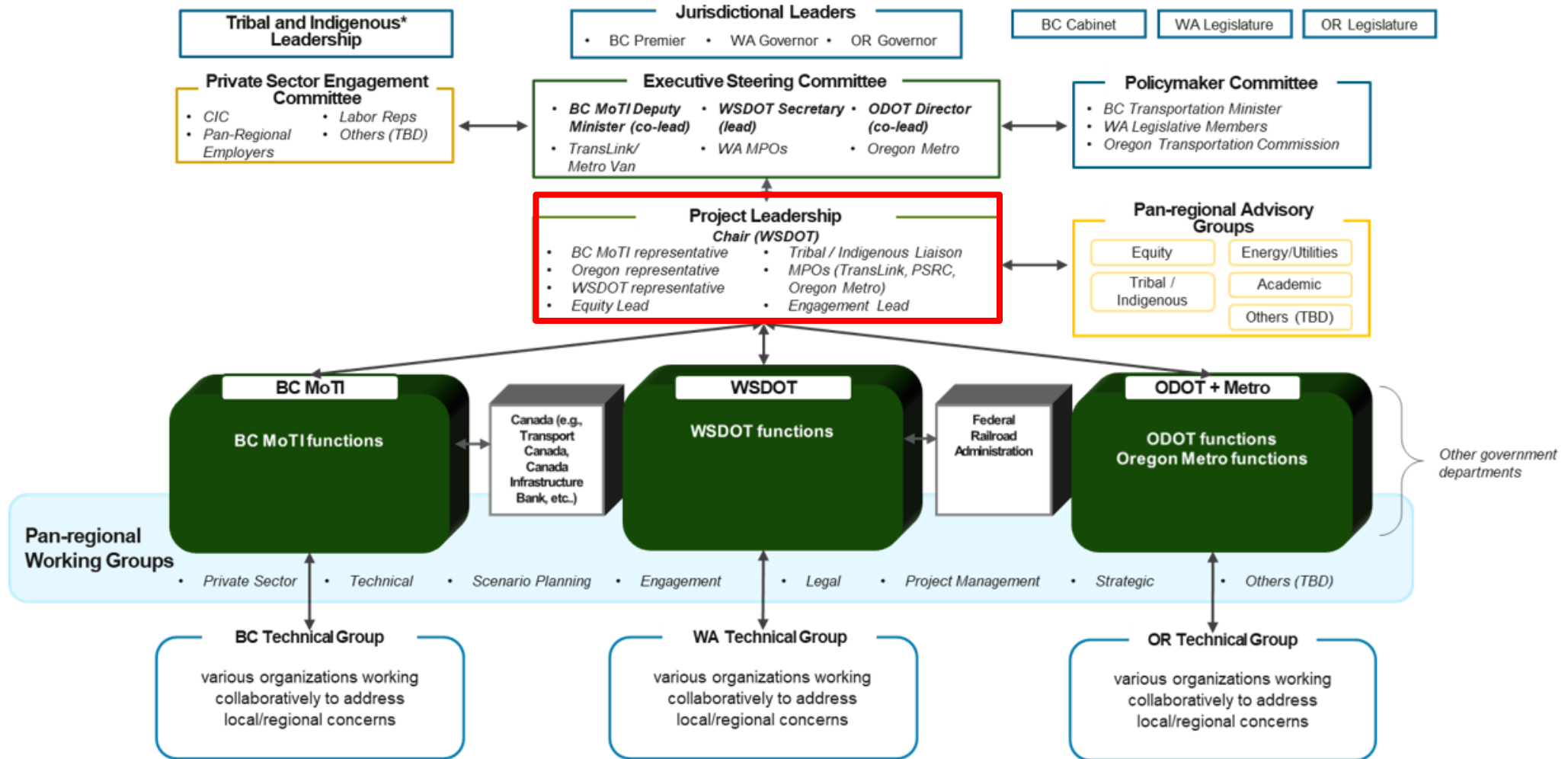
# Cascadia High-Speed Rail

## Progress To Date



# Cascadia High-Speed Rail Governance - Coordinating Entity

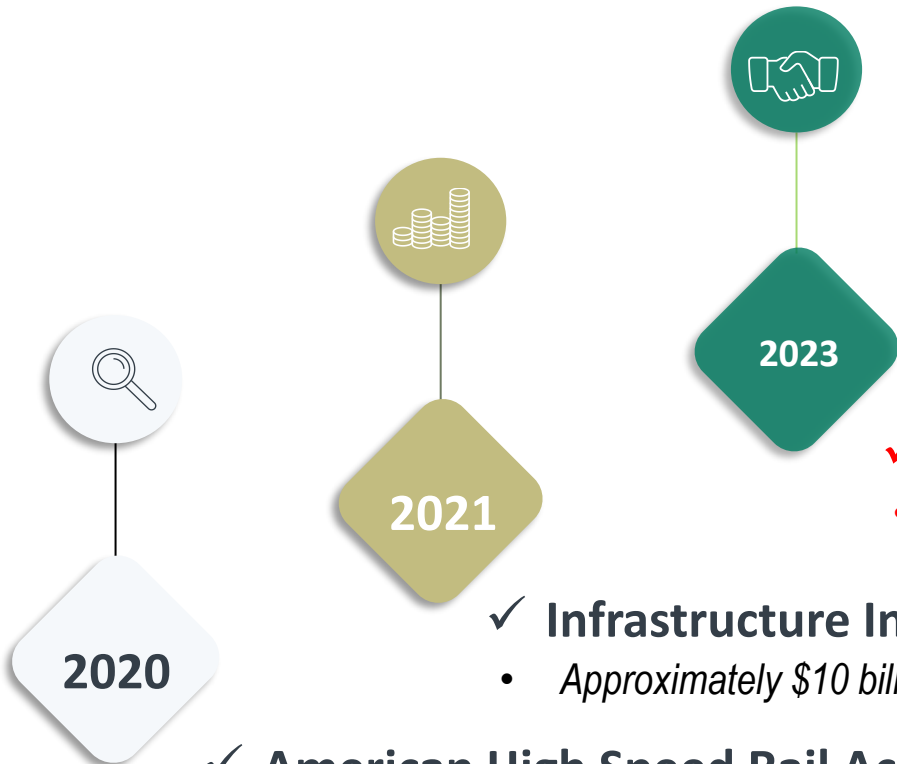
Excerpt from June 2023 Legislative Report



**\* Terminology**

The terms "Tribal" and "Indigenous" are used to denote native peoples in the U.S. and Canada respectively. The term "Tribal" is predominantly used in the U.S., whereas "Indigenous" is most often used in Canada.

# Federal High-Speed Rail *Progress To Date*



- ✓ **American High Speed Rail Act (not passed)**
  - *Proposed \$205 billion over 5 years to rev up the US economy*

- ✓ **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs (IIJ) Act**
  - *Approximately \$10 billion available for high-speed rail grants*

- ✓ **Cascadia High Speed Rail: HIGH PRIORITY**
  - *Project List Discussed with Secretary Buttigieg*





# WSDOT High-Speed Rail

## *Progress To Date*

2021

- \$50 MM state matching funds available upon award (\$100 MM future biennia contingent funds)

2023

- \$500,000 Corridor Identification Application (**Awarded**)
- \$200 MM Federal State Partnership Grant Application (**FSP grant not awarded**)

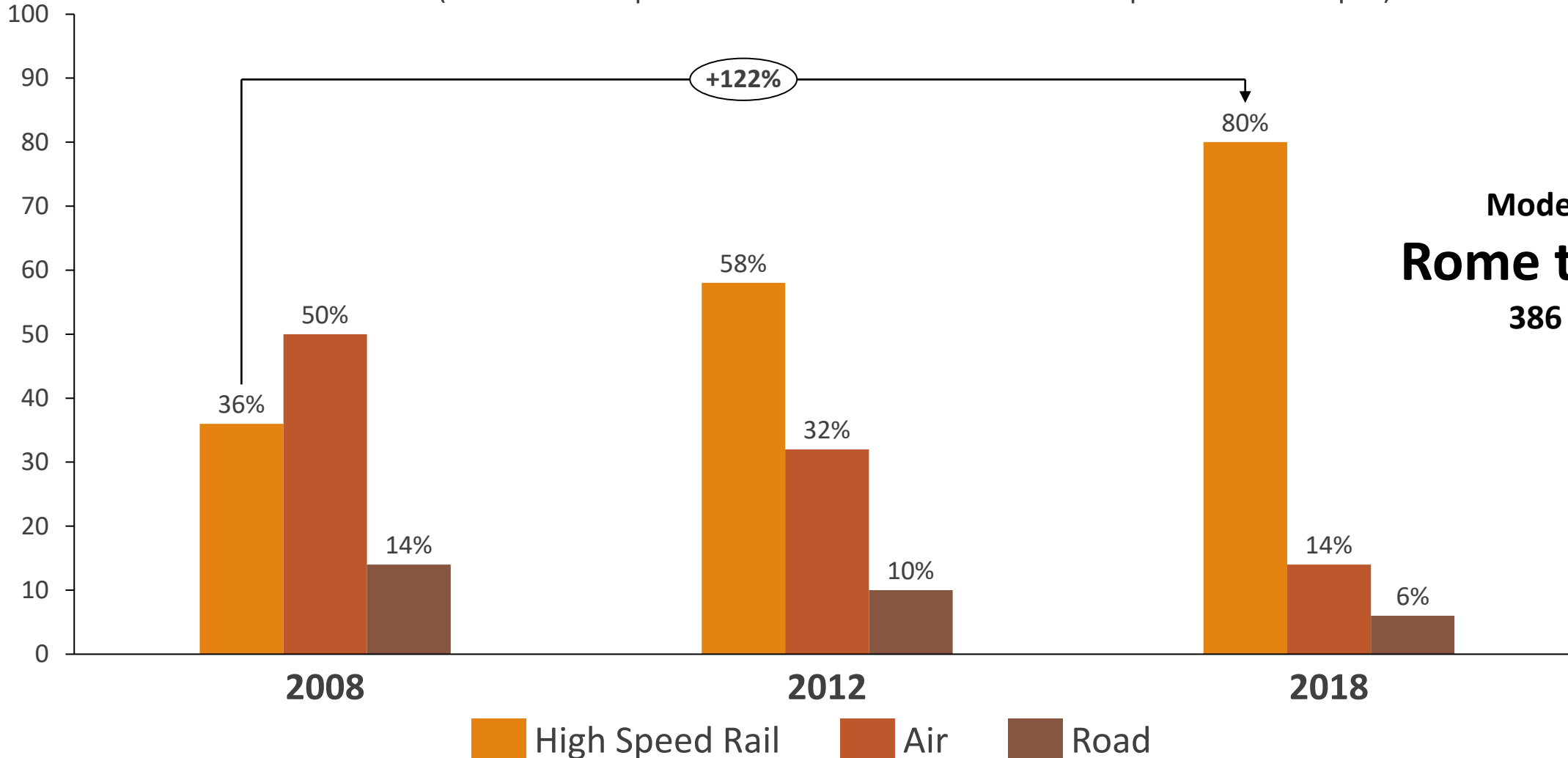
2024

- WSDOT with corridor partners are submitting a CID “statement of work” for approximately \$200 MM - Match - 90% federal / 10% state
- The CID program and funds are not a competitive grant fund process – The approval of statement of work results in the award of funding
- (Amtrak Cascades was approved for passenger rail)



# High Speed Rail Quickly Transforms the Transportation Mix

(2009 Rail Speed Increased from 125+ mph to 200 mph)

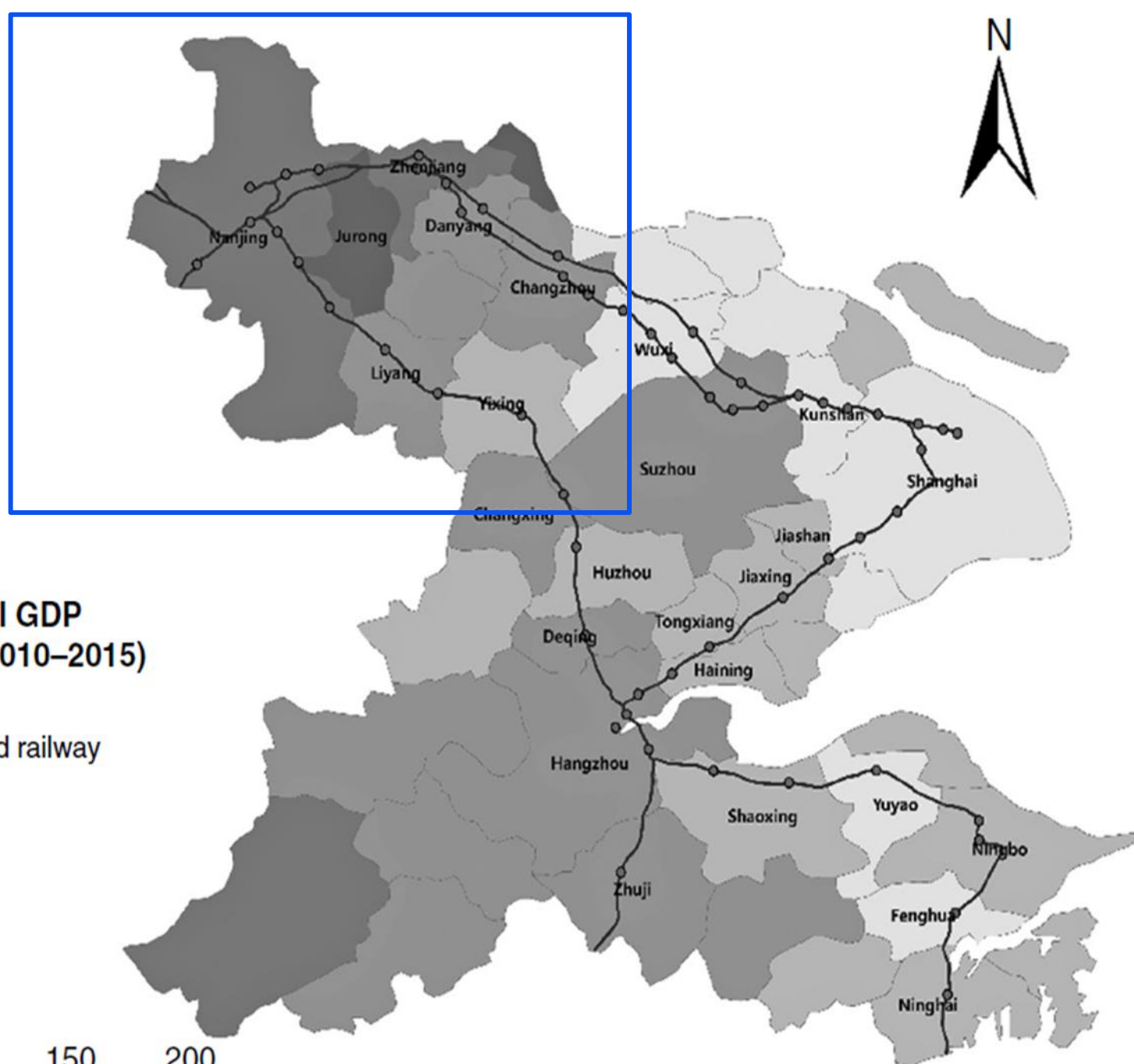
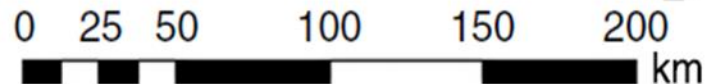
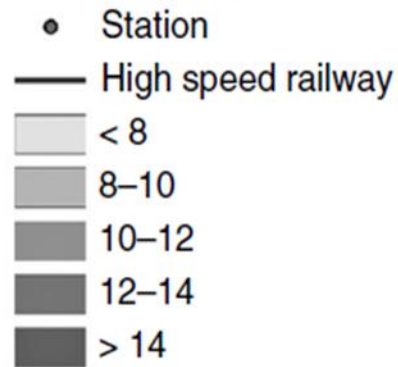


**Mode Share:**  
**Rome to Milan**  
386 Miles

# High Speed Rail Supercharges Opportunity

- ❖ Equitable
- ❖ Decreases regional disparities
- ❖ Bridges the Urban / Rural divide
- ❖ Creates Affordable Housing

**Average Annual GDP  
Growth Rate in % (2010–2015)**





# Strong Support for Cascadia High Speed Rail





*“If I could count on the train trip being under two hours and on-time from Eugene to Portland, I would never fly that route or drive on I-5 again.”*

**Congressman  
Peter DeFazio,  
Former U.S. House of  
Representatives Transportation  
Committee Chairman**

