

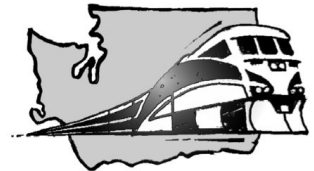
Passenger Rail — Interstate Rail Commission

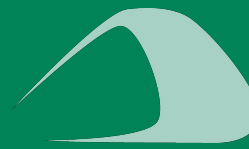
Presentation for
DRYVE/TRANS-action
March 25, 2021

Gary Wirt, Board Vice-President
All Aboard Washington
aawa.us

Who is All Aboard Washington?

- AAWA has promoted better passenger and freight rail service in the Pacific Northwest for over forty years.
- We are a nonprofit advocacy organization of citizens, businesses, and other goal-oriented groups.





Improving Mobility & Increasing Access

AAWA is encouraging the state to implement recommendations from several plans and studies:

- Connect **local public transit** more conveniently with the intercity transportation network
- Provide **convenient and equitable rail service** throughout the state, both in new East-West and existing North-South *Cascades* corridors



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- Less USDOT emphasis on **travel time saved**, more on **safety & value to society**

Extending Train Service East-West

AAWA is encouraging the state to conduct a full analysis as recommended by the 2020 JTC Study's preliminary research:

- Assess local **economic impacts, costs, and benefits**, especially better accessibility and lower VMT
- Evaluate the **need for equity** in transportation access to rural and underserved communities, including the Yakima Valley
- Investigate **capital and operating costs** more thoroughly



Creating a Northwest Rail Commission

A Northwest Regional Rail Commission, proposed in legislation currently being considered in Congress, could help East-West service become a reality by:

- **Improving coordination** for East-West and other rail corridors
- **Increasing WA's competitiveness** for federal grants
- **Providing long-term continuity** for regional projects like East-West



Your Support is Appreciated!

Other organizations can help AAWA by:

- Sending additional letters of support addressed to:
 - Sen. Maria Cantwell
 - Rep. Marilyn Strickland
 - Rep. Rick Larsen
 - Rep. Dan Newhouse
 - cc: John Robert Smith (jrsmith@t4america.org)
- Sample letters, talking points, and other info available at aawa.us/RRC



Questions?

Contact us at
(509) 213-0070
or
aawa.us

Presentation available at
aawa.us/take-action

