

The federal government officially recognizes a 466-mile corridor in the Pacific Northwest for **high-speed passenger rail** transportation. It's been on the books since 1992. Out here we often call it the Cascade Rail Corridor. It's not an Oregon route. It's not a Washington route. It's a bi-state route. In fact, it's bi-national. The southern terminus is Eugene, and the northern terminus is Vancouver B.C. There's much to gain by planning this corridor jointly with Washington: Infrastructure; timing; even pricing.

Last year, the directors of the Oregon and Washington departments of transportation signed a memorandum of understanding [quote] "to document the mutual understanding between the partners regarding **joint funding and oversight responsibilities** for Pacific Northwest Rail Corridor passenger service, towards the goal of coordinated, efficient and effective passenger service in the PWRC." The partners will work collaboratively to develop a corridor management plan that will include governance, management, planning, funding, equipment, and performance measures.

And beyond that departmental agreement: ODOT is finding that it has **shared contractual interests** with the state of Washington. For example, there are currently separate state operating agreements with Amtrak; Oregon needs to enter into a maintenance contract with the train manufacturer; and there's interest in 3- and 4-party agreements for maintenance on the entire fleet of trains. Joint management would also allow the states to more effectively negotiate with British Columbia.

It's appropriate, now, for legislative action to (1) **establish legislative policy direction** for bi-state, joint corridor planning, and (2) to add **legislative oversight**, via a biennial report to the legislature, bringing increased visibility and public access to the effort.

Oregon would be in a better position to **compete for federal funds** by demonstrating partnership in a collaborative effort, helping to realize the federal vision for the entire corridor. Let's put the legislative stamp on this effort and provide policy direction to do the corridor planning and management as a joint effort. Thank you.
