

Cascades corridor slide prevention and repair



Project Description:

Connecting Washington provides funds to mitigate landslides that interrupt service along the Amtrak Cascades intercity passenger rail corridor. In 2013, WSDOT's Rail Division convened a Landslide Mitigation Work Group composed of representatives from 17 different agencies,

including BNSF Railway, Sound Transit, Amtrak, and several state agencies and municipalities. This group continues to meet on a regular basis to share information; recently updated the Landslide Mitigation Action Plan; and is providing input on projects that should be considered for use of these funds.

Proposed projects include:

- Conduct an updated survey of slide prone areas to identify locations along the rail corridor that are most vulnerable to landslides – the last evaluation was conducted in 2012
- Implement low-cost fixes by working with property owners and cities to mitigate actions (such as landscaping, drainage, or further development) that might contribute to landslides
- Install more high-tech slide prediction tools which provide data to help identify potential landslides before they happen
- Evaluate relevant state/local permitting codes/rules to better address planning decisions that may result in increased erosion issues
- Continue community outreach and education campaign focused on residents and businesses in coastal bluff areas that are vulnerable to landslides

Need for project

The most landslide prone areas along the Amtrak Cascades corridor are found north of Seattle along the coastal bluffs in Snohomish County. Every year, more than 200,000 Amtrak Cascades passengers travel this area between Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia. During the rainy season, landslides sometimes impact the rail service when unstable slopes slide onto the tracks. More than 500 Amtrak Cascades trains were cancelled or disrupted over

the last five years due to landslides. After each landslide, passenger trains are halted for 48 hours while nearby slopes are evaluated and tracks are cleared and verified for safe passenger train travel. The result is poor on-time performance and many unhappy passengers. Limiting the number of landslides along the rail corridor is critical to Amtrak Cascades goals to increase the reliability of passenger rail service in the Pacific Northwest.

Program duration – January 2016 – June 2031

Budget

2015-2017	2017-2019	2019-2021	2021-2023	2023-2025	2025-2027	2027-2029	2029-2031
\$1,0310,000	\$4,567,000	\$4,567,000	\$4,567,000	\$4,567,000	\$4,567,000	\$4,567,000	\$4,567,000

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Victoria Book
WSDOT Transportation Planning Specialist
 360-705-7408
BookV@wsdot.wa.gov

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Information: This material can be made available in an alternate format by emailing the Office of Equal Opportunity at wsdotada@wsdot.wa.gov or by calling toll free, 855-362-4ADA(4232). Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may make a request by calling the Washington State Relay at 711.

Title VI Notice to Public: It is the Washington State Department of Transportation's (WSDOT) policy to assure that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin or sex, as provided by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise discriminated against under any of its federally funded programs and activities. Any person who believes his/her Title VI protection has been violated, may file a complaint with WSDOT's Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). For additional information regarding Title VI complaint procedures and/or information regarding our non-discrimination obligations, please contact OEO's Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7082.