



Amtrak Cascades Service Restoration Status Report

The 2023 Washington State Legislature directed the Washington State Department of Transportation to report on the status of Amtrak Cascades service levels to the transportation committees and the Office of Financial Management by September 1, 2023.¹ A summary of Amtrak Cascades service levels and service recovery milestones are described in this report.

Amtrak Cascades Pre-Pandemic Service Levels

Before the pandemic, Amtrak Cascades offered four daily roundtrips between Seattle and Portland, two daily roundtrips between Portland and Eugene, OR and two daily round trips between Seattle and Vancouver, BC. This level of service carried 824,000 riders in 2019.

Pandemic Service Levels and Recovery

In **March 2020**, Amtrak Cascades service was reduced to a single daily roundtrip between Seattle and Eugene in response to COVID-related travel restrictions. Service was restored incrementally as follows:

- **May 24, 2021:** One daily roundtrip was restored between Seattle and Eugene and one daily roundtrip was restored between Seattle and Portland.
- **September 26, 2022:** One daily roundtrip was restored between Seattle and Vancouver, BC.
- **March 6, 2023:** One daily roundtrip was restored between Portland and Vancouver, BC.

As of **March 6, 2023**, Amtrak Cascades service was fully restored to pre-pandemic levels; however, ridership remains below 2019 numbers. In 2022, Amtrak Cascades carried 427,000 riders and ridership has been steadily increasing in 2023 as trains are added and travel demand rebounds.²

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Service Levels Returning this Fall

After WSDOT invested nearly \$790 million in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant funds between 2011 and 2017, Amtrak Cascades service was poised to add two additional daily roundtrips between Seattle and Portland for a total of six daily roundtrips. On December 18, 2017, the very first day these new service levels were to be offered, Amtrak Cascades Train 501 derailed at DuPont, Washington. Subsequently, Amtrak Cascades service reverted to the same daily service levels in place since 2009 (as outlined above).

Amtrak and WSDOT intend to add Seattle to Portland roundtrips five and six this fall, thereby meeting the daily service levels between Seattle and Portland required under the ARRA grant funding agreements. Planning is well underway for these added daily trains, including hiring and training of additional Amtrak staff, equipment preparations, and schedule reviews and negotiations with host railroads BNSF, Union Pacific, and Sound Transit.

Once the host railroads approve the new daily schedules in upcoming months, the start date will be shared with elected officials and stakeholders. The announcement to the public will include information on the start date and when tickets will be available for purchase at www.AmtrakCascades.com and www.Amtrak.com.

¹ [ESHB 1125, Section 223](#)

² [Amtrak Cascades Performance Report](#)