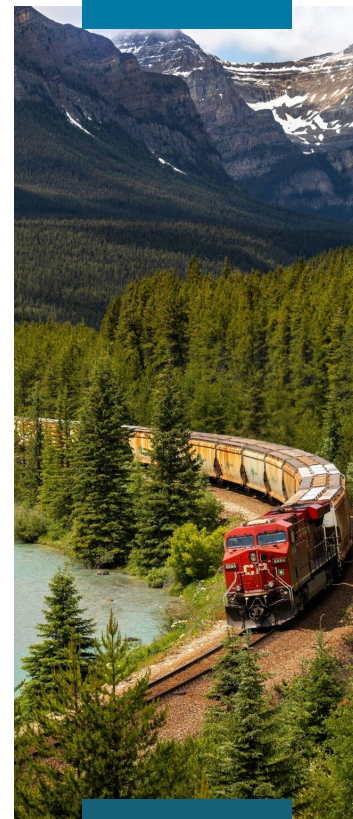




PNWER Regional Infrastructure Accelerator

January 21, 2025
Senate Transportation Committee
Olympia, WA

Bruce Agnew, *PNWER RIA Director*
Tom Lang, *PNWER RIA Rail Program Manager*



About PNWER

The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) is a public-private partnership chartered by the states, provinces and territories of:

- . Alaska
- . Idaho
- . Montana
- . Oregon
- . Washington
- . Alberta
- . British Columbia
- . Saskatchewan
- . Yukon
- . Northwest Territories



PNWER is recognized by the federal governments as the model for regional and bi-national cooperation because of its proven success.

- . **16 Working Groups**
- . **Legislative Energy Horizon Institute (LEHI) – A 60-Hour Energy Policy Academy**
- . **FIFA Cross-Border Coordination**
- . **2026 Federal Transportation and Energy Reauthorization**



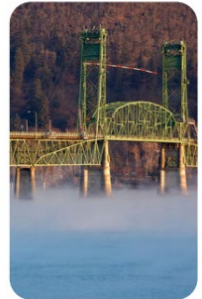
About the PNWER RIA Program

The PNWER Regional Infrastructure Accelerator (RIA) program is an initiative funded by the U.S. Dept. of Transportation's Build America Bureau that helps **accelerate infrastructure project delivery** through the provision of **technical assistance** and identification of **innovative financing solutions**.

The PNWER RIA is a field office for the Bureau, and a portal to USDOT modes, including **highway, railroad, transit, maritime and aviation**.

The PNWER RIA serves as a convener for transportation projects, with specific focus on multistate and multi-jurisdictional initiatives that:

- **Ease supply chain disruptions**
- **Reduce transportation-related pollution**
- **Increase economic and environmental justice, especially for historically underserved communities**



PNWER RIA Program Areas

PNWER's Regional Infrastructure Accelerator is a USDOT-funded program that connects multi-state transportation projects with innovative federal financing mechanisms, including TIFIA and RRIF loan programs and Public-Private Partnerships (P3s).



Build Northwest Center of Excellence

Connect federal and state transportation leaders with private industry leaders to expedite project delivery with a focus on permit reform.



Critical Connections

Supports improvements to sea and inland ports and bridges for increased connectivity for rural communities and Tribal nations.



Zero-Emission Commercial Refueling

Supporting development of zero-emission refueling infrastructure for medium- and heavy-duty vehicles along freight corridors.



High Performance Rail

Accelerating investment in freight and passenger rail networks and connecting communities.



Regional Supply Chain Decarbonization

WA Zero-Emission Commercial Vehicle Incentive Program

- Co-authored WA MHD ZEV incentive program on behalf of WA Joint Transportation Committee
- Conducted statewide stakeholder engagement, including **40+** focus groups, interviews and agency meetings
- Previous work advanced decarbonized drayage vehicles at the Ports of Seattle & Tacoma
 - Partnership with Northwest Seaport Alliance, participation in the Puget Sound Zero-Emission Truck Collaborative

Systems Integration: Clean Charging Technology and Interstate Corridors

- Accelerating build-out of clean technology & fueling hubs along major corridors
- Partnering with Umpqua Indian Development Corporation for zero-emission charging at a Tribally-owned truck stop in Roseburg, Oregon
- St. Regis, MT Hydrogen Hub and I-90 corridor strategy
- Chehalis-Centralia Zero-Emission Hub in the PNWER RIA project pipeline for future assistance

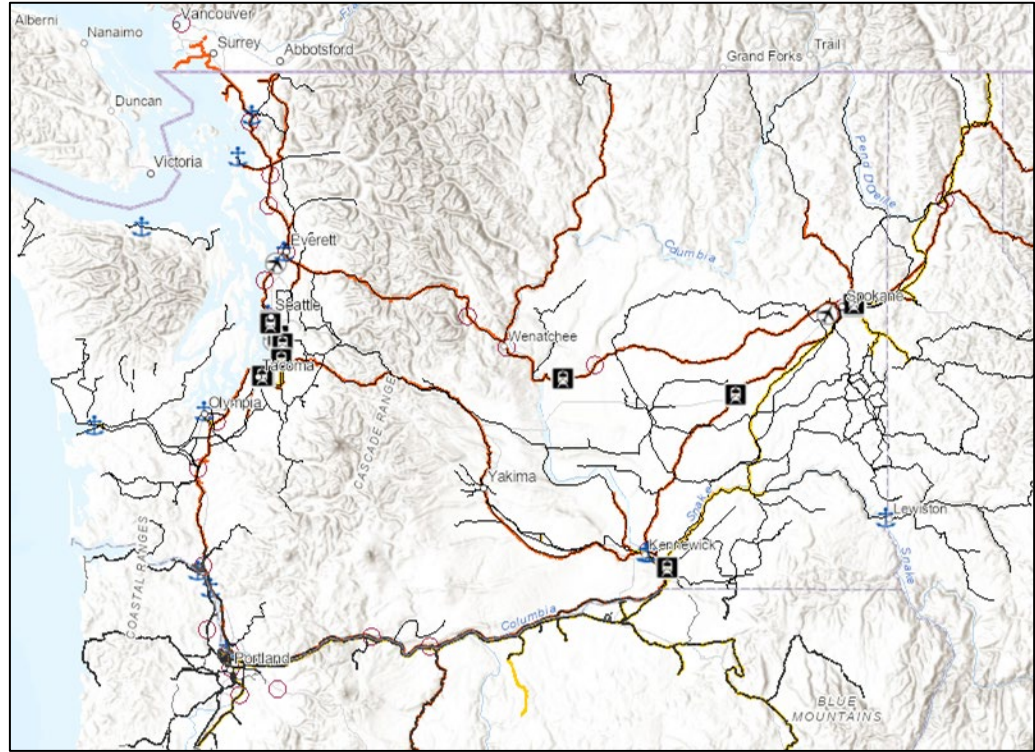
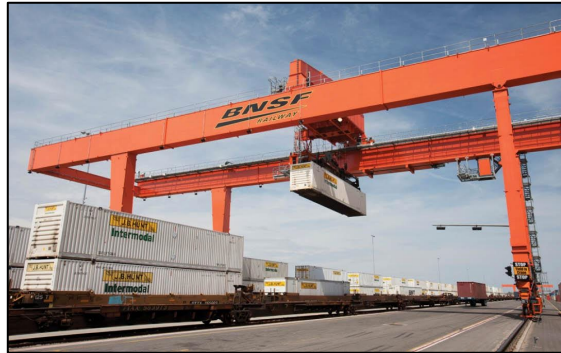


Washington Projects & Initiatives

- 1 **Cascades Corridor Rail and Port Investment Strategy:** Identifying and bundling rail improvement projects to enhance daily corridor performance along the Cascades.
- 2 **Hood River-White Salmon Bridge Replacement Project:** Supporting the Bridge Authority in navigating federal credit program gap financing.
- ★ **High Performance Rail Working Group:** Discussing opportunities for co-investment in the PNW's freight and passenger rail network.
- ★ **Cascade Gateway Rail Group:** Collaborating with WSDOT and partners to prepare for 2026 FIFA World Cup transportation needs between Seattle and Vancouver, BC.
- ★ **Build Northwest Center of Excellence | Education & Outreach**
 - Legislator Outreach & Education
 - Project Sponsor Educational Workshops
 - Technical Assistance Webinars



High Performance Rail Corridors



Regional Media Outreach



THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW

This column reflects the opinion of the writer.
[Learn about the differences between a news story and an opinion column.](#)

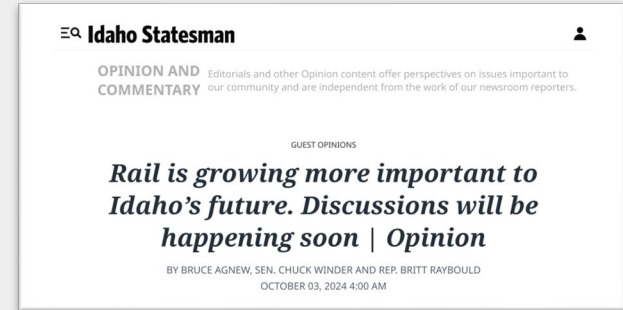
OPINION > GUEST OPINION

Bruce Agnew and Al French: Rail investment powers economic growth and community connectivity

Thu., Oct. 3, 2024

By Bruce Agnew and Al French

“Palouse River – Coulee City Railroad secured nearly \$100M in federal and state grants (matching nearly \$80M in private investment)”



🔍 **Idaho Statesman**

OPINION AND COMMENTARY Editorials and other Opinion content offer perspectives on issues important to our community and are independent from the work of our newsroom reporters.

GUEST OPINIONS

Rail is growing more important to Idaho’s future. Discussions will be happening soon | Opinion

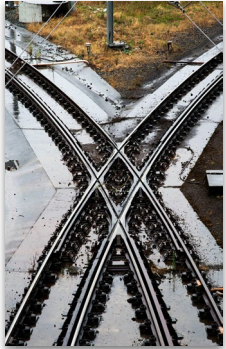
BY BRUCE AGNEW, SEN. CHUCK WINDER AND REP. BRITT RAYBOULD
OCTOBER 03, 2024 4:00 AM

“Green Farms to Green Ports – Investing in agriculture, manufacturing, Class I and short line railroads to sea and inland ports with clean energy”



The ABCs of High Performance Rail

Advancing public and private investments in our Northwest rail corridors and connected networks



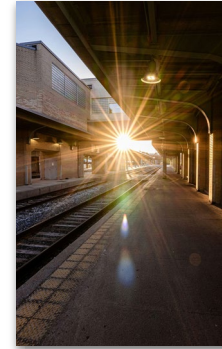
Accelerating economic growth

Reduce bottlenecks, increase connectivity, expand employment opportunities



Benefiting the environment

Enhance truck and rail transloads, reduce emissions, restore fish and wildlife habitat through culvert expansion

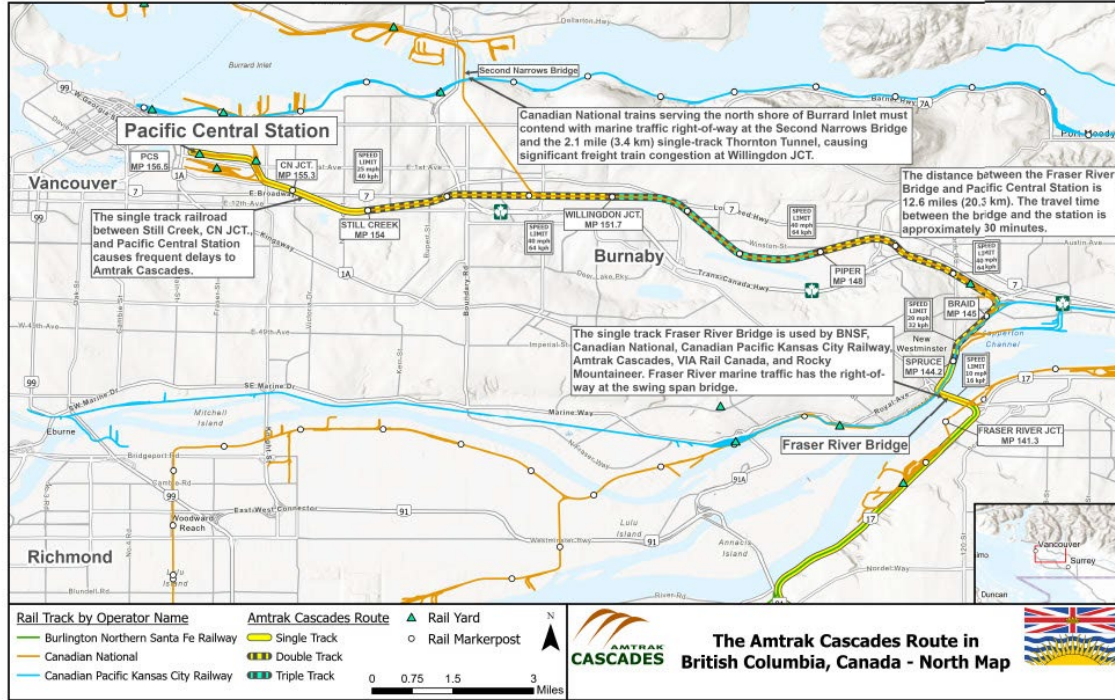


Connecting more communities

Eliminate highway crossings, transit option for rural/tribal areas, TOD

One train = 280 trucks

Cascade Gateway Rail Group



MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
2026			6/11 FWC Kickoff	6/12 VAN 1	6/13 VAN 1	6/14
6/15 SEA 1	6/16	6/17	6/18 VAN 2	6/19 SEA 2 Juneteenth	6/20	6/21 VAN 3
6/22	6/23 SEA 3 VAN 4	6/24 SEA 4 VAN 5	6/25	6/26 SEA 4 VAN 5	6/27 Pride	6/28
6/29	6/30 SEA 5	7/1 SEA 6	7/2 VAN 6	7/3	7/4 Independence Day	7/5
7/6 SEA 6	7/7 VAN 7	7/8	7/9 Quarter Final	7/10 Quarter Final	7/11 Quarter Finals	7/12
7/13	7/14 Semi Final	7/15 Semi Final	7/16	7/17	7/18 Bronze Final	7/19 FWC Final



Learn more about High Performance Rail

Trains & Tracks 101

Date TBD

PNWER Annual Summit

July 20-24 in Bellevue

www.pnwer.org/2025-summit



2025 Greater Northwest Rail Summit

October 16-18 in Portland





Contact Us

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Learn more at www.RIAnorthwest.org

