

Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Coalition

Brief of Regional Outreach and Support

Restoring long-distance passenger rail service to the Greater Northwest Region of the continental United States is by definition a regional effort, and includes the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, Minnesota, and portions of Wisconsin. Too often in the past, individual states lobbied for their individual interests without recognition that the only way we can restore the *North Coast Hiawatha*, *Pioneer*, or other long-distance routes in the region, is by working collaboratively—hence, the genesis of the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Coalition. We are calling our informal group a “Coalition” to avoid confusion with a Working Group to be established later.

For over a year and a half, this dedicated group of community leaders and rail advocates have laid the groundwork for an expanded passenger and freight rail network in the Greater Northwest region. We have collaborated with a diverse collection of counties, cities, towns, and tribal governments. Thanks to this collaboration, we have received significant support and [media coverage](#) for the economic, environmental, and equity benefits that such a network would bring.

Partner agencies and organizations in the coalition include All Aboard Washington, the Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates, the City of Boise, ID, COMPASS, the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (MT), the Utah Rail Passengers Association, Transportation For America, and All Aboard Minnesota.

We cannot attempt to cobble passenger rail segments together in hopes of coming up with a complete transportation system. The “long-distance” routes are the feeder routes to build upon; we need to have them in order to construct our 21st Century transportation network. We are growing as a region, as exhibited by the reallocation of US Congressional seats to Oregon, Montana, and Colorado; we need to build for our future today.

There has been a groundswell of vocal support from the Greater Northwest region, including communities that have not had passenger rail service since before Amtrak. It is important that these chronically ignored voices be heard.

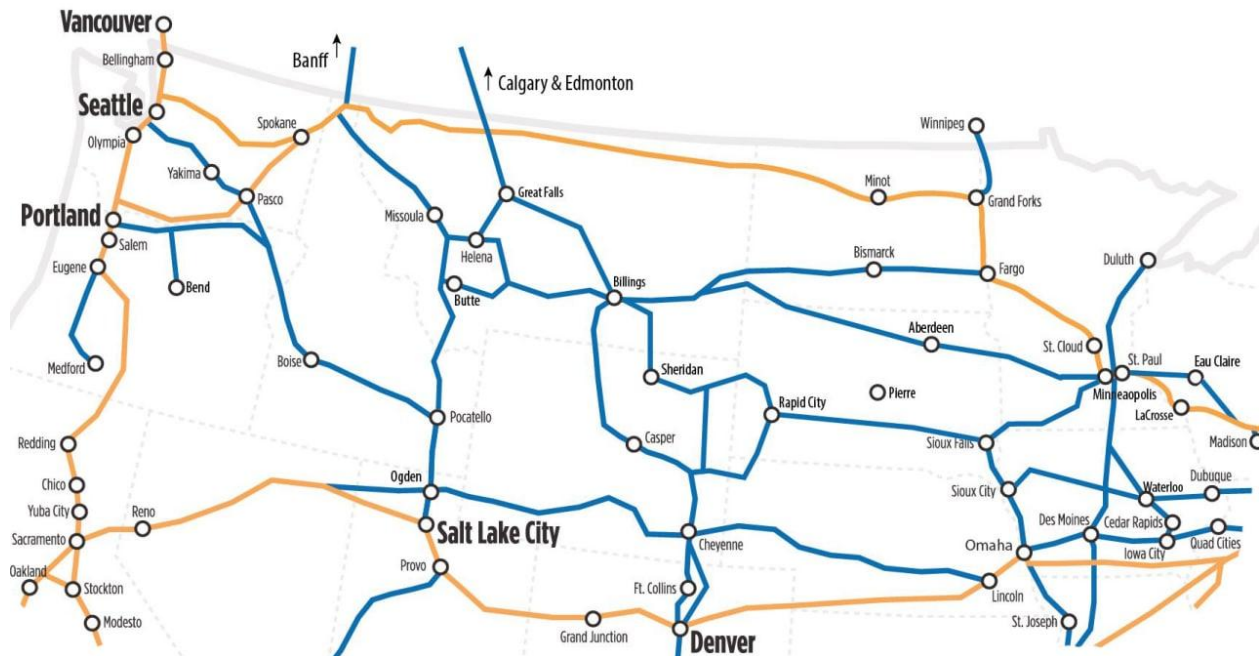
By virtue of Section 22214 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and as [requested by a bipartisan group of US Senators](#) from the region, the Secretary of Transportation and the Federal Railroad Administration are empowered to convene working groups to assist with the Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Service Study. In order to lay the groundwork for including our region (and the *North Coast Hiawatha* and *Pioneer* routes) in the IIJA Section 22214 study, the Coalition has conducted extensive outreach throughout the region. The following document is a compilation of statements of support from organizations, agencies, and local governments collected to-date. Outreach and engagement is ongoing, so this should be considered a living document.

We are ready and willing to do the hard work required to bring passenger rail back to our greater region; a full network, if we are empowered to act. A formal Greater Northwest

Passenger Rail Working Group is the first critical step toward realizing that. We ask for an honest consideration of restoring passenger rail in our region and enhance the connectivity and performance of the entire National Network.

Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Vision Map

(People live here!)

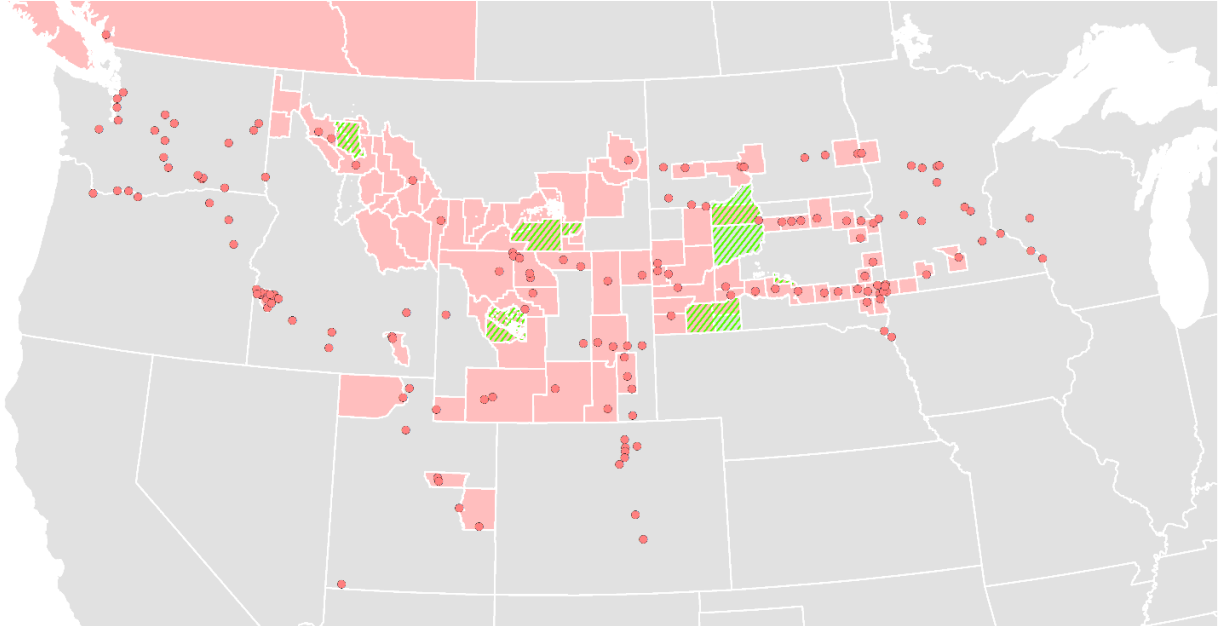


Letters and Resolutions by State or Entity

In response to our Greater Northwest outreach activities, the following organizations have signed resolutions or letters in support of an expanded passenger rail network, including

- Establishment of a Working Group for the region,
- Establishment of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority, and
- Re-establishment of passenger service on the *Pioneer* and *North Coast* routes.

Greater Northwest Outreach & Support Map



Washington

- [City of Ritzville](#)
- [Yakima Valley Conference of Governments](#)
- [TRANS-Action & DRYVE Joint Letter](#)

Oregon

- [City of Halfway](#)

Idaho

- [City of Boise Letter to Amtrak](#)
- [City of Boise Resolution](#)
- [City of Pocatello](#)
- [City of Idaho Falls](#)
- [Bonner County Commissioners](#)
- [Kootenai County Commissioner Chris Fillios](#) [as an individual]

Montana

- [Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority - Founding Counties Joint Resolution](#)
- [City of Deer Lodge](#)
- [Big Horn County Commissioners](#)
- [Carbon County Commissioners](#)
- [Gallatin County Commissioners](#)
- [Glacier Country Tourism](#)
- [Prairie County Commissioners](#)
- [Prairie County Economic Development](#)

- [Sanders County Commissioners](#)
- [Southeast Montana Tourism](#)
- [Yellowstone Country Tourism](#)
- [Northern Plains Resource Council](#)

Wyoming

- [Evanston Economic Development](#)
- [Uinta County Commissioners](#)
- [City of Rock Springs](#)
- [Sweetwater County Commissioners](#)
- [Carbon County Commissioners](#)
- [Platte County Commissioners](#)
- [City of Douglas](#)
- [Visit Casper](#)
- [City of Greybull](#)
- [Sheridan Travel & Tourism](#)
- [Energy Capital Economic Development](#)
- [Campbell County Commissioners](#)
- [City of Sundance](#)
- [Converse County Commissioners](#)
- [Washakie County Commissioners](#)
- [City of Sheridan](#)

North Dakota

- [Governor Doug Burgum](#)
- [City of Medora](#)
- [Dickinson Convention & Visitors Bureau](#)
- [Stark County Commissioners](#)
- [Bismarck-Mandan Chamber EDC](#)
- [City of Mandan](#)
- [Burleigh County Commissioners](#)
- [Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments](#)

South Dakota

- [Pennington County Commissioners](#)
- [Rapid City Area MPO](#)
- [Grant County Economic Development](#)
- [City of Sturgis](#)

Minnesota

- [City of St. James](#)

Native Nations

- [The Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation](#)

Others

- [US Senatorial Sign-on Letter, December 2021](#)
- [Nevada Rail Coalition for Greater Northwest Working Group](#)
- [Nevada Rail Coalition Letter for Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority](#)
- [Nevada Rail Coalition Letter for All Aboard Northwest](#)

Further Passenger Rail Support

Letters, resolutions and official statements supporting passenger rail expansion or improvements in the last two years (i.e. additional Twin Cities-Chicago Service).

- [COMPASS \[Idaho\] 2020 Federal Transportation Positions](#)
- [COMPASS \[Idaho\] 2021 Federal Transportation Positions](#)
- [Anoka, MN City Resolution on TCMC Service](#)
- [Brainerd, MN City Resolution on TCMC Service](#)
- [Faribault, MN City Resolution on passenger rail service study to Southern Minnesota](#)
- [La Crescent, MN City Resolution on TCMC Service](#)
- [Little Falls, MN resolution on TCMC Service](#)
- [Red Wing, MN City Resolution on TCMC Service](#)
- [Staples, MN City Resolution on TCMC Service](#)
- [St. Paul, MN City Resolution on TCMC Service](#)
- [Wadena, MN Resolution on TCMC Service](#)
- [Winona, MN City Resolution on TCMC Service \(non-duplicate of WisDOT copy\)](#)
- [Accumulated Letters for increased Minneapolis/St. Paul - Chicago Service received by WisDOT](#)
- [Joint ND, SD, MT, WY, & ID DOT Corridor Identification & Development Program RFI Response](#)

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