



June 23, 2022

**Statement of Support for the creation of the
Federal Railroad Administration
Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Working Group**

The High Speed Rail Alliance supports the creation of the Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Working Group.

Rural America is underserved by intercity passenger rail options, particularly states in the Greater Northwest region.

The Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Working Group, modeled after the congressionally established Gulf Coast Working Group, should be convened by the Secretary of Transportation to create service development plans for routes within the region bounded by Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; Salt Lake City, UT; Denver, CO, Kansas City, MO; Saint Paul, MN; Grand Forks, MN and Williston, ND – with direct connections to Chicago.

The routes should connect many cities and towns, such as Billings, MT; Boise, ID; Fargo, ND; Laramie, WY; and Rapid City, SD to each other and to cities such as Chicago, IL; Denver, CO; Salt Lake City, UT and Seattle, WA. The routes should be served by 2 or more daily roundtrips and have integrated schedules to create a connected network.

The ultimate goal of the working group is to further the economic and social well-being of rural America while providing enhanced connectivity for the national passenger rail system, making the overall system more robust and resilient.

The Alliance is looking forward to assisting the working group in any way we can.