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## Oregon Department of Transportation

Dec. 1, 2015

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### **Oregon Passenger Rail Leadership Council meeting on Dec. 8, 2015**

SALEM – The Oregon Department of Transportation is studying ways to improve the future of intercity passenger rail service between the Eugene-Springfield urban area and the Portland-Vancouver, WA. urban area. The study will help decide on a general passenger rail route and evaluate options for train frequency, station locations, trip time, and improving on-time performance.

On Tuesday, Dec. 8, the Leadership Council will meet to get an update from the project team. The meeting will be held from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. in Salem at the Broadway Commons 1300 Broadway Street, Grant Room.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide an overview of the project team's initial analysis of the alternatives and their Preferred Alternative recommendation and to determine if the Leadership Council can support the Preferred Alternative recommendation.

This year, the project team analyzed and reached agreement with Federal Rail Administration on the following criteria for selecting the Preferred Alternative: ridership demand, level of service and track capacity, ability to phase construction, cost of investment versus public benefits, multimodal integration, and community and environmental impacts.

In the fall of 2013, the project team collected public feedback on the evaluation results, and received hundreds of comments about the preliminary alternatives. On December 17, 2013, the Leadership Council met and made a recommendation on which rail route alternatives should receive more detailed study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Federal Railroad Administration approved moving the recommended alternatives into the DEIS for further study.

During 2014, the project team further developed the two alternatives, conducted additional modeling to identify needed improvements and future ridership, and studied the potential impacts and benefits of building and operating the two alternatives. Alternative 1 follows the existing Amtrak Cascades passenger rail route with improvements. Alternative 2 is primarily a new route between Springfield and Oregon City located along I-5, an existing freight rail line, and I-205. It would follow the existing alignment north of Oregon City.

For more information visit [www.OregonPassengerRail.org](http://www.OregonPassengerRail.org) or contact Jill Pearson, ODOT Stakeholder Engagement Strategist, (503) 986-3313, [info@oregonpassengerrail.org](mailto:info@oregonpassengerrail.org).

This meeting is open to the public. Accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities, and alternate formats of printed material are available upon request. Please call (503) 986-3313 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting (statewide relay 7-1-1).

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