

# Oregon Passenger Rail

## Eugene - Portland



CHOOSING A PATH FORWARD

Newsletter - fall 2013

## Preliminary alternatives have been evaluated

The Oregon Department of Transportation is studying ways to improve inter-city passenger rail service between the Portland-Vancouver, Wash. urban area and the Eugene-Springfield urban area. The study will help decide on a general passenger rail route and evaluate options for train frequency, trip time, and improving on-time performance. This past spring, ODOT used public input as we developed preliminary rail route alternatives, and has completed an evaluation of these alternatives.

### You're invited! Project open houses

ODOT is hosting public open houses throughout the project area in November. Join us to review the evaluation results and provide your comments. This is an important time for you to weigh in on the project. Your input will be used to help the Leadership Council make a recommendation this December on which rail route alternatives should receive more detailed study in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

### We invite you to drop in at any of the open houses to learn more about the project and talk to project staff.

Spanish interpretation will be available at all meetings.

## Open house dates and locations

### Salem - Keizer

Tuesday, Nov. 5, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Chemeketa Center for Business and Industry  
626 High St. N.E., Salem, OR, 97301

### Eugene - Springfield

Wednesday, Nov. 6, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Eugene Main Public Library  
100 W. 10th Ave., Eugene, OR 97401

### Albany - Corvallis

Thursday, Nov. 7, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
Linn-Benton Community College  
6500 Pacific Blvd. S.W., Albany, OR 97321

### Oregon City

Tuesday, Nov. 12, 4 - 6:30 p.m.  
Pioneer Community Center  
615 Fifth St., Oregon City, OR 97045

### Portland

Thursday, Nov. 14, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m.  
PCC Climb Center  
1626 S.E. Water Ave., Portland, OR 97214

## Participate online

Can't make it to a meeting?  
Give us your input online. Visit [www.OregonPassengerRail.org](http://www.OregonPassengerRail.org) between Nov. 5 and Nov. 18 to participate in our virtual open house.

*Project Community Advisory Groups will be meeting in October 2013. Please check the website for meeting dates and times.*



## Accommodation information for people with disabilities



Information is available in alternative formats upon request. Accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities. To request an accommodation to participate in meetings, please call Jill Pearson at (503) 986-3313 or statewide relay 7-1-1 at least 48 hours prior to the meeting.

# Preliminary alternatives

The following preliminary alternatives and options were evaluated this summer using the project goals and objectives. The evaluation results will be shared at the public open houses.

**Blue** - The blue alternative generally follows the existing Amtrak Cascades route. The blue alternative could use existing stations. One option would include adding new track south of Salem to shorten the route. A second option would provide a new station near Portland's Rose Quarter, and then continue on new track east of through northeast and north Portland to Vancouver, Wash.

**Red** - The red alternative runs along Interstate 5, either just inside of or near the current highway right of way. South of Portland, it follows Interstate 205 north and Interstate 84 west into central Portland. The alignment along I-5 and I-205 would be on all new track dedicated to intercity passenger rail service. It would use existing rail lines west of the I-205/I-84 interchange to Vancouver, Wash. The red alternative could use Portland's Union Station but would bypass existing stations in Eugene, Albany and Salem. It could include new stations in Springfield, Albany, Salem/Keizer and the southern Portland metro area.

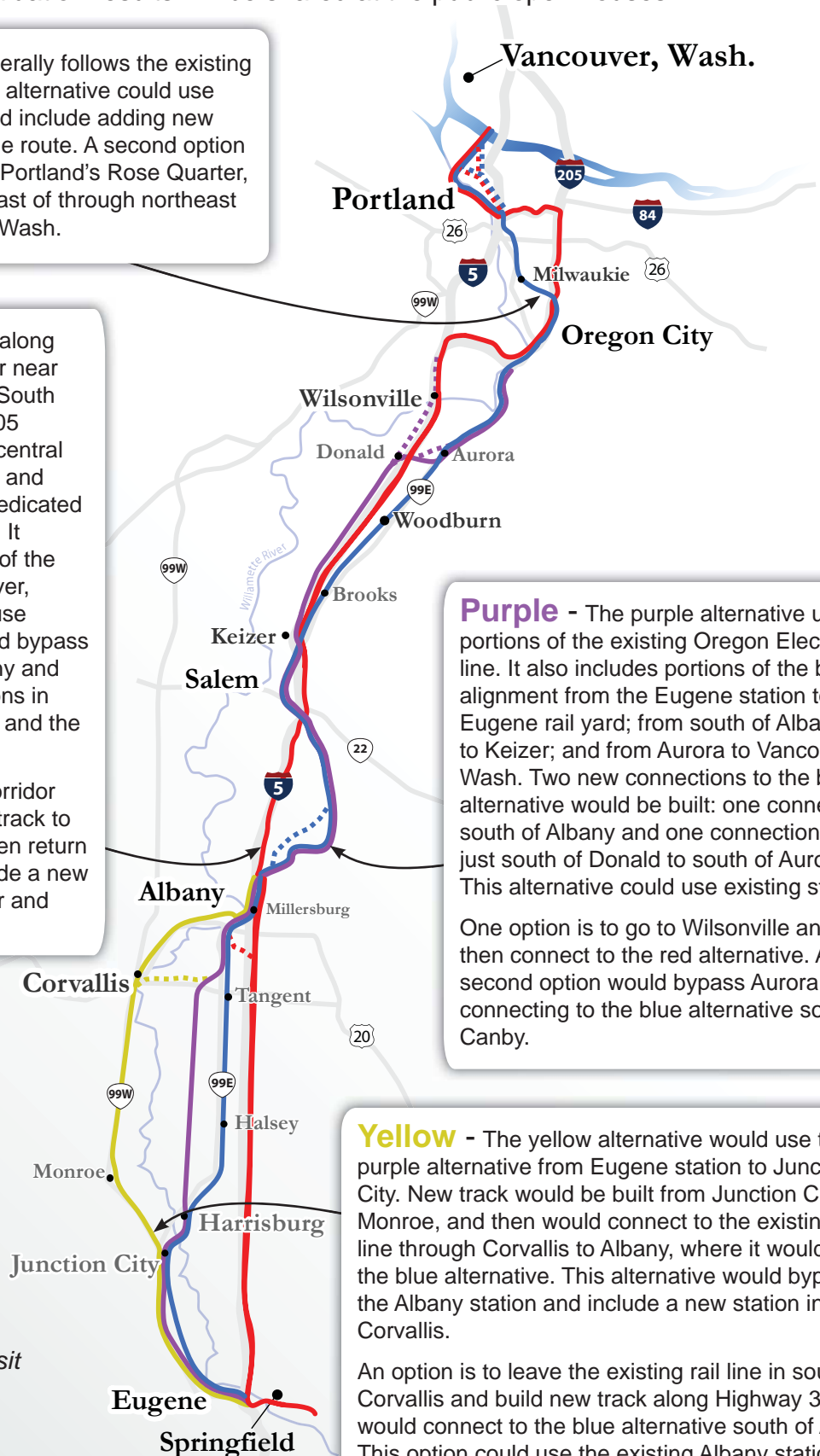
One option would leave the I-5 corridor south of Albany and use existing track to the existing Albany station and then return to I-5. Another option would provide a new station in Portland's Rose Quarter and bypass Portland' Union Station.

**Purple** - The purple alternative uses portions of the existing Oregon Electric line. It also includes portions of the blue alignment from the Eugene station to the Eugene rail yard; from south of Albany to Keizer; and from Aurora to Vancouver, Wash. Two new connections to the blue alternative would be built: one connection south of Albany and one connection from just south of Donald to south of Aurora. This alternative could use existing stations.

One option is to go to Wilsonville and then connect to the red alternative. A second option would bypass Aurora before connecting to the blue alternative south of Canby.

**Yellow** - The yellow alternative would use the purple alternative from Eugene station to Junction City. New track would be built from Junction City to Monroe, and then would connect to the existing rail line through Corvallis to Albany, where it would join the blue alternative. This alternative would bypass the Albany station and include a new station in Corvallis.

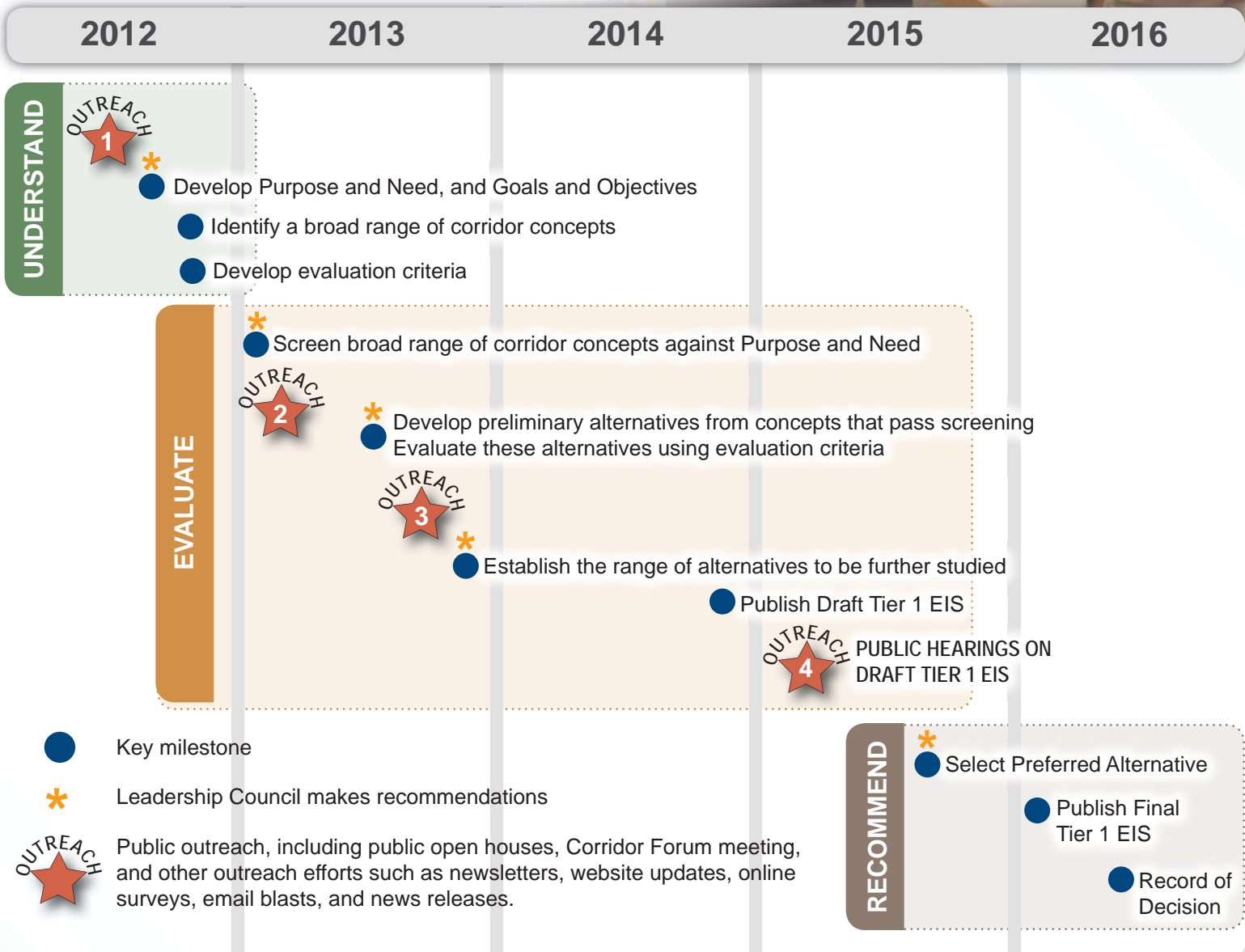
An option is to leave the existing rail line in south Corvallis and build new track along Highway 34 that would connect to the blue alternative south of Albany. This option could use the existing Albany station.

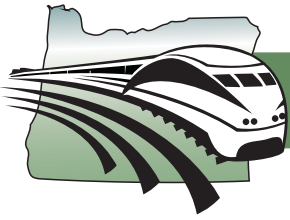


For full descriptions of the preliminary alternatives, please visit [www.OregonPassengerRail.org](http://www.OregonPassengerRail.org)

# Where we are now in this study: *Evaluate phase*

The Oregon Passenger Rail study is divided into three general phases - *Understand*, *Evaluate*, and *Recommend*. Currently, we are in the *Evaluate* phase. In early 2013, a broad range of rail route options called corridor concepts were screened against the project Purpose and Need. The corridor concepts that passed screening were then refined into a set of preliminary alternatives after extensive stakeholder engagement and additional engineering development. These alternatives were evaluated in summer 2013 using criteria based on the project goals and objectives. Now, the project team is looking for public feedback on the evaluation results to deepen the team's understanding of the trade-offs and implications of the preliminary alternatives.





## Oregon Passenger Rail public meetings – November 2013

### You're invited to attend an open house in November

The Oregon Department of Transportation thanks everyone who provided input on the development of preliminary passenger rail route alternatives. We have evaluated these alternatives and are ready to share the results with the public. We invite you to give us your feedback on the evaluation results by attending a public open house in November or by participating online.

*More details inside.*



c/o JLA Public Involvement  
1110 SE Alder St, Suite 301  
Portland, OR 97214

### How to get involved

There are many ways to get involved in this project:



Attend an open house (details inside).



Participate in our online open house at [www.OregonPassengerRail.org](http://www.OregonPassengerRail.org) (Nov. 5-18).



Submit a comment form online.



Email us: [info@oregonpassengerrail.org](mailto:info@oregonpassengerrail.org).



Contact Jill Pearson, ODOT Stakeholder Engagement Strategist, at (503) 986-3313 or [Jill.L.Pearson@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Jill.L.Pearson@odot.state.or.us).

*Or attend a Community Advisory Group meeting.  
(Details on website.)*