
Oregon Department of Transportation

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Oregon Passenger Rail Leadership Council meeting on December 15, 2014

SALEM – The Oregon Department of Transportation is studying ways to improve intercity passenger rail service between the Eugene-Springfield urban area and the Portland-Vancouver, Wash. 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.

The needs and concerns of Oregon citizens are a key driver of the Oregon Passenger Rail study. In early 2013, the project team developed a set of four main preliminary rail route alternatives after extensive stakeholder engagement and engineering development. These alternatives were evaluated in summer 2013 using criteria based on the project goals and objectives.

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. The team also studied the potential impacts and benefits of building and operating the two alternatives.

On December 15, the Leadership Council will meet to get an update from the project team. The meeting will be held on Monday, December 15 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Broadway Commons, Mexico Room, 1300 Broadway Street NE, Salem, OR. 97301.

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

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