

# ACTION ITEMS

Transportation Working Group 2015



Pacific NorthWest  
Economic Region

*The transportation working group focuses on the infrastructure of our major corridors and gateways, with a special interest on border infrastructure. It is currently working to improve the Northwest Rail System through the Stimulus Package and examining future transportation investments.*

**Co-Chairs:**

Bruce Agnew, Director, Cascadia Center; co-chair

Sen. Chuck Winder, Idaho, co-chair

Action Items	Project Lead	Status
1 Idaho Transportation Department will take the lead in working with Federal Highway Administration to request grant funding to allow the Idaho Transportation Department to convene a public private stakeholder group to recommend harmonization of truck size, weight and oversize permit processes. The focus will be harmonization among Northwest states and across the US Canadian border in partnership with Transport Canada and the New West Partnership of BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Based on presentations and Montana legislative comments from the Agriculture and Border sessions, cross border trucking regulations are hurting businesses both local and		In progress
2 To continue the effort to encourage collaboration between the US and Canada, the P3 working group and Transportation working group will collaborate to explore developing a regional P3 strategy and share best practices. Identify a lead in each jurisdiction to serve on a task force to identify and share best practices.		In progress

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<p>Based on presentations by FRA, Transport Canada and Greenbrier Co (oil tank car manufacturer) with input from BNSF and CN we propose to develop an easy-to-understand primer on developments with regard to oil tank car regulations and expedited deployment. We would use Primer at two upcoming sessions:</p> <p>3</p> <p>A) WA/Or/ID Rail Caucus meeting proposed for mid-October in Hood River, OR ( Note: at request of Montana Representative Kathleen Williams, Montana representatives would be included in the session with first responders to share best practices).</p> <p>B) Oil Train Safety Symposium in Tacoma WA (Jan/Feb 2016)</p>		<p>In progress</p>
<p>“The Transportation and Tourism Working Groups are collaborating to expand the “Two Nation Vacation Rail” experience by passenger and excursion rail, particularly by Asian tour groups.</p> <p>We Endorse:</p> <p>4</p> <p>A) Improvements in the Great Northern Rail Corridor to improve reliability of the Amtrak Empire Builder</p> <p>B) Expedited rail pre-clearance in Vancouver, BC to improve operational reliability and the customer experience</p> <p>C) Continued operation of the Rocky Mountaineer on the BNSF Seattle-to-Vancouver BC line</p> <p>D) Public/private partnerships between railroad owners, rail tour operators and local tourism and cultural leaders to expand the reach of international rail tours. Specifically from the coast to the interior and Rocky Mountain region of Montana, Idaho and Oregon in partnership with successful ventures in Alaska, BC and Alberta”</p>		<p>In progress</p>