

# Amtrak Cascades Update

## GREATER NORTHWEST RAIL SUMMIT

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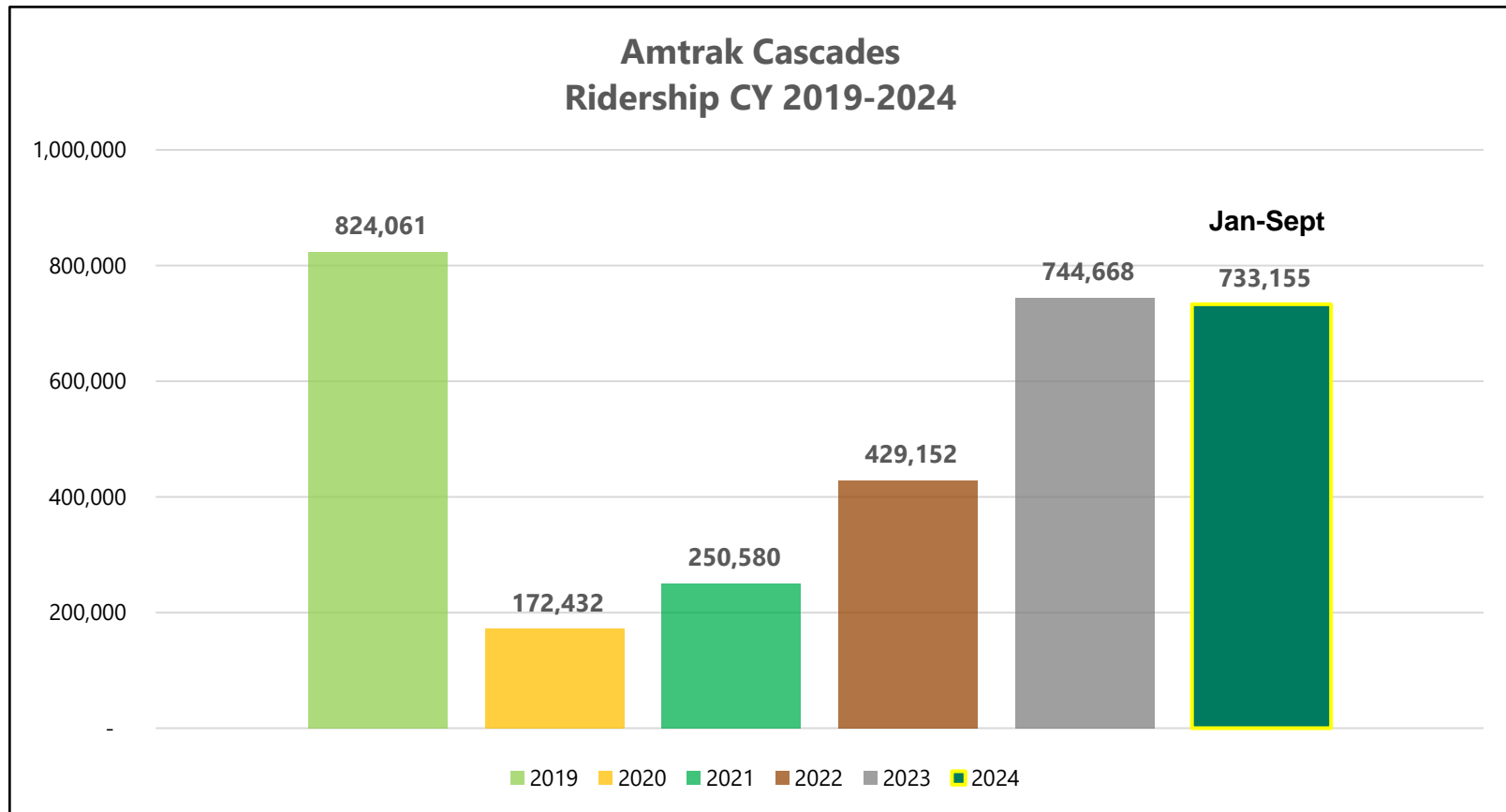
# Amtrak Cascades corridor

## Amtrak Cascades service

- 18 stations from Vancouver, BC to Eugene, Oregon covering 461 miles
- Current daily roundtrips:
  - Two between Seattle and Vancouver, BC
  - Six between Seattle and Portland
  - Two between Portland and Eugene
- WSDOT and ODOT contract with Amtrak to operate the service
- As a federally designated Intercity Passenger Rail service, States pay for operating costs not covered by ticket sales
- Amtrak operates on BNSF and Sound Transit tracks in Washington and Union Pacific tracks in Oregon

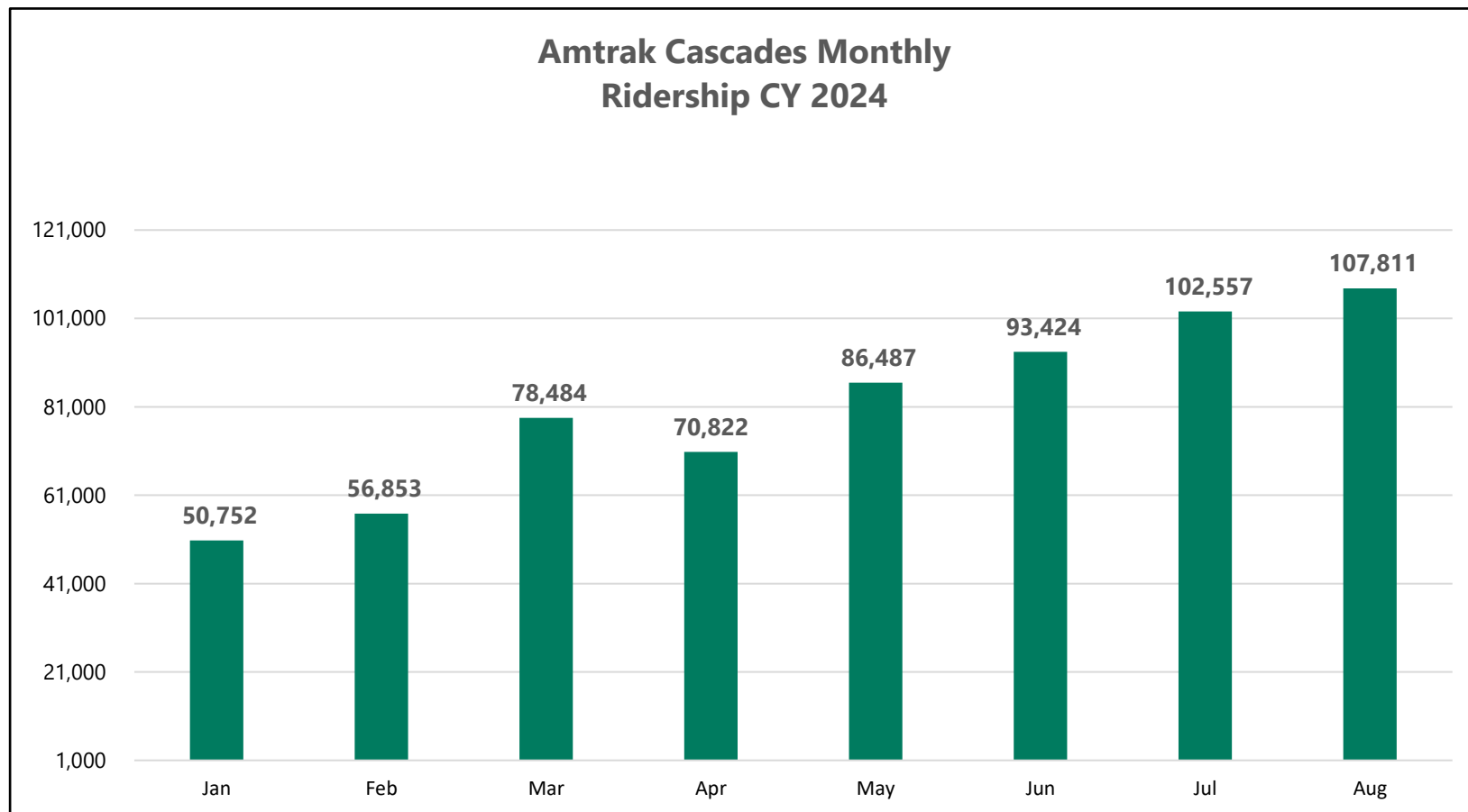


# Ridership increasing



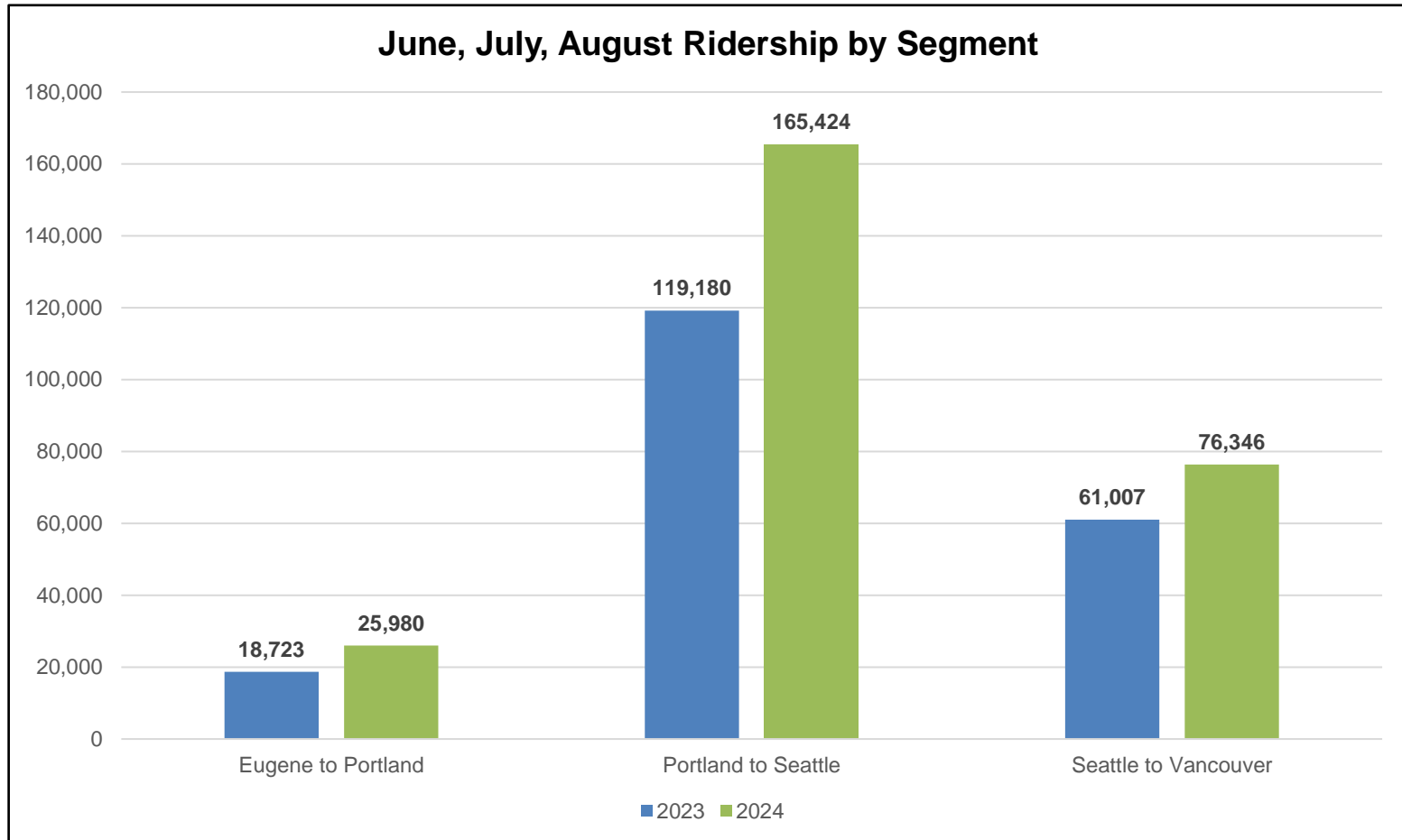
- Preliminary ridership numbers for first nine months of 2024 nearly equals entire 2023 levels and may surpass 2019 levels
- Anticipate one million riders in 2025

# Ridership and revenue increasing



- July and August were record-breaking months – topping 100,000 riders

# Summer ridership by segment



- All segments of the corridor are experiencing growth in ridership
- These numbers do not include passengers making cross-segment trips

# Free youth fare in Washington state



- Passengers aged 18 and under now ride free on Amtrak Cascades trains in Washington
- First announced on May 28, 2024
- More than 11,000 youth have participated
- Legislature passed requirement in 2022 for all transit, ferries, and Amtrak Cascades trains to offer free fares
- Part of state's Climate Commitment Act
- Hoping to inspire an entire generation to consider trains and transit as great travel choices



# New trainsets in 2026



- Eight new trains and two new locomotives
- Part of Amtrak's national procurement, funded through the federal IIJA infrastructure package
- Manufactured by Siemens in the United States
- Cascades first to be delivered by Siemens, with trains for routes in eastern U.S. following
- Each train seats 300 passengers
- More fuel efficient and produce significantly less air pollution
- Designed for comfort, with amenities for onboard work or enjoyment
- Revenue service in 2026





# Preclearance at Pacific Central Station

## Customs preclearance between Canada and United States

- Construction at station to accommodate onsite customs clearance
- Funding for improvements will be paid from ticket surcharge revenues being charged to passengers traveling to and from the station
- VIA Rail contracting for construction, with costs paid through Amtrak
- Will eliminate need for southbound trains to stop in Blaine for U.S. Customs agents to board the train to check passengers
- Will save 10 minutes in travel time between Vancouver, BC and Seattle
- Targeting Spring 2025 for implementation





# Promoting cross-border travel

## 2026 World Cup in Seattle and Vancouver, BC

- Total of 13 matches occurring in both cities between June 13 and July 7, 2026
- Preparing for major transportation impacts with Amtrak, FIFA Planning Committee, and other WSDOT divisions
- Exploring adding more trains, buses or additional cars to transport spectators between the cities
- Opportunity to make Amtrak Cascades a transportation option during this international event and promote ongoing train travel between the two countries



# Current construction projects

## Salmon Bay Bridge

- WSDOT was awarded a \$25 million federal INFRA grant to rehabilitate the Salmon Bay Bridge, north of Seattle over the Ballard locks
- BNSF Railway funding remainder of the \$110 million project
- Serves Amtrak Cascades, Amtrak's long-distance Empire Builder and Sound Transit's Sounder trains



## Landslide mitigation

- Leveraged \$4.5 million in state funds into more than \$12 million total project funding through the federal grants and BNSF Railway contributions
- WSDOT awarded three separate CRISI grants from FRA
- WSDOT administers the grants and BNSF Railway undertakes the work to install catchment walls and slope stabilization



# Future planning

## Amtrak Cascades Service Development Plan

- WSDOT and ODOT are developing a blueprint for future capital improvements and service changes for Amtrak Cascades
- \$500,000 in federal funding received December 2023, additional funding available
- ODOT completed its Service Development Plan and is preparing for project development activities in Oregon
- WSDOT completed its Preliminary Service Development Plan for segments of the corridor under its purview
- Next step for WSDOT is to develop more detailed analysis of service options, needed capital improvements, costs, and a phased implementation plan



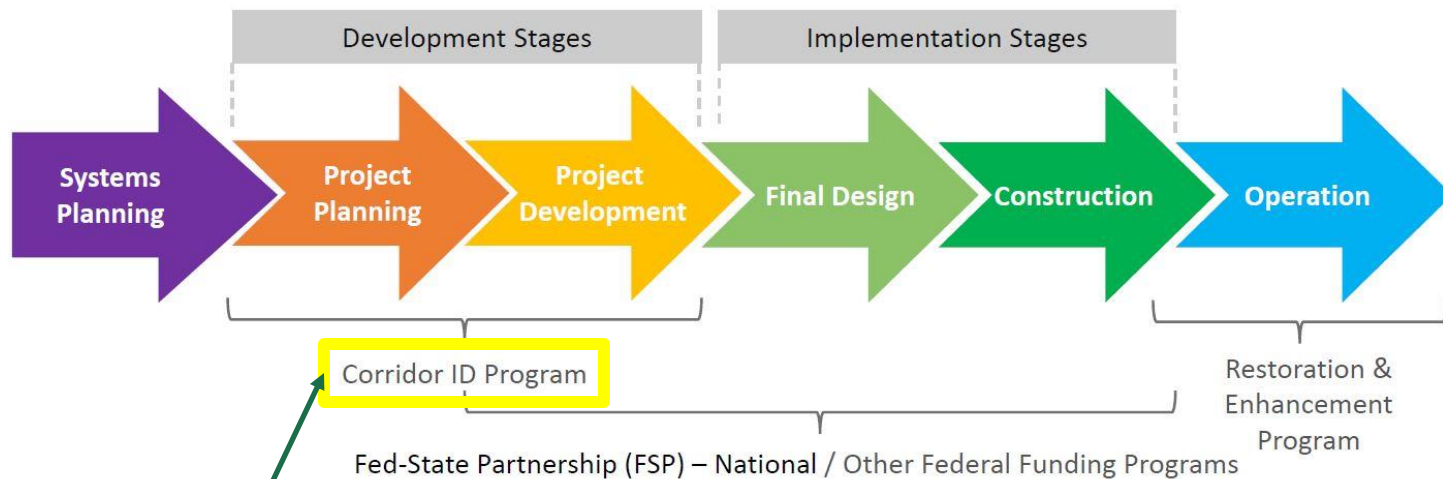
- Several upcoming opportunities for input, communication, and coordination on longer-term service frequencies and customer / operational improvements



# Federal funding pipeline

## FRA's Corridor Identification and Development program

### FRA Project Lifecycle Stages – Corresponding FRA Funding Programs



Amtrak Cascades is **here**

# Information

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