

Point Defiance Bypass Track and Signal Testing

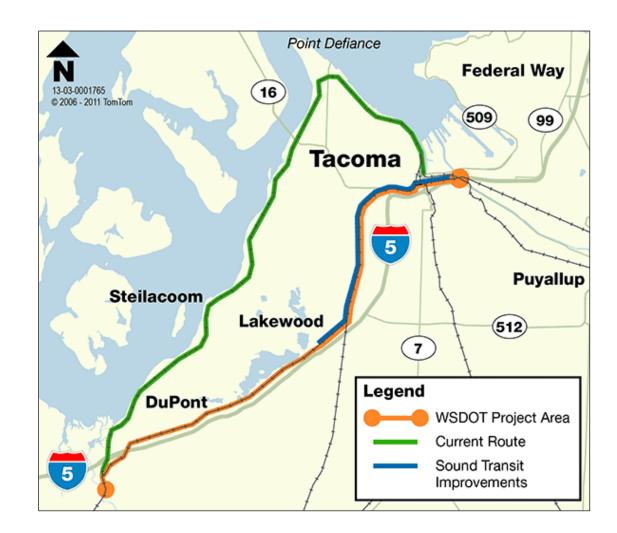
Tacoma City Council Study Session

DAVID SMELSER, Capital Program Manager – Rail, Freight, and Ports Division January 31, 2017



Tacoma Point Defiance Bypass project

- New 19.5 mile inland bypass route for less congestion, quicker trips
- 14.5 miles of new and upgraded tracks
- Five reconstructed crossings with advanced warning and signal systems
- New crossovers and turnouts to reduce
 passenger train congestion
- Three railroad bridges rehabilitated; a fourth re-constructed
- New, 700-foot trestle platform extension (in conjunction with Sound Transit)
- New Tacoma station





Current schedule

Construction Update





Two-phases of testing

Track Stabilization – happened the weekend of January 21-22

- Ensured all new ballast and rails are stable and able to handle trains
- Between South 66th Street in Tacoma, through Lakewood, JBLM, DuPont, and Nisqually
- Tacoma Rail freight trains were used

Testing and Certification – Starts February 2017

- New signals and tracks all tested
- Between Tacoma Dome station and Nisqually
- Increasing speeds tested up to 79 mph
- Amtrak trains will be used





Safety measures in place during testing

Flaggers and/or police at all at-grade crossings, including:

- All current crossings in Tacoma and Lakewood
- Clover Creek Drive SW
- North Thorne Lane SW
- Berkeley Street SW
- 41st Division Drive
- Barksdale Avenue

Signage alerting drivers

Variable message signs at key intersections





Synchronized signals and safety measures

- New traffic signals coordinate with the train signals and railroad crossing gates to minimize queuing and keep traffic moving
- Median barriers prevent vehicles from going around the railroad crossing gates
- New signage to alert vehicles to not stop on the tracks
- Sidewalks provide an ADA-accessible route over the tracks
- Wayside horns minimize noise outside of the intersection, so trains do not have to blow horns when approaching the intersection
- Fencing along both sides of the tracks discourage trespassers





Trains on the new bypass in fall 2017

- A total of 14 passenger trains between approximately 7:00 am and 10:00 pm
- Passing time for a train less than a minute (from time gates go down until they come back up)
- Trains much lighter, shorter and quieter than freight trains currently operating in the corridor
- New welded rail and concrete ties eliminate the clickety-clack of old railroad tracks





Posters and flyers in the community

"

Be safe around trains Stay back from the tracks!

-Doug Baldwin



TRAIN TRACK AND SIGNAL MID-JANUARY 2017

BE ALERT!

- Testing will occur along all tracks parallel to I-5 from South Tacoma to Lakewood to JBLM and DuPont
- Trains may come from either direction, day or night
- Trains will travel at speeds up to 79 mph

WSDOT

SAFETY FIRST!

- Alert all family and friends of the testing schedule
- Obey all signals at all times (pedestrians and vehicles)
- Wait until crossing arms go up and lights stop flashing before proceeding
- Do not trespass on the tracks

Amtrak CASCADES -2)



Amtrak Cascades is permanently rerouting its tracks through Tacoma, along I-5 between Lakewood, JBLM and DuPont. Testing of the new routes and signals will occur from mid-January through the end of February 2017. During testing, trains will travel at speeds up to 79 mph and come from either direction, any time, day or night. Regular service on the new route is scheduled to begin in fall 2017.

NEW SERVICE

In fall of 2017, Amtrak Cascades will begin running 14 daily passenger trains along this route, operating from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm. The trains service 18 stations between Vancouver, BC and Eugene, Oregon, including stops in Tacoma and Lacey. This additional service will help relieve highway congestion and give travelers a comfortable and convenient way to travel up and down the I-5 corridor.



For more information, go to: wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/Projects StayBackFromTheTracks.com





PRUEBAS DE VÍA DE TREN Y SEÑALES EN SU ÁREA HASTA FINALES DE FEBRERO 2017

SEGURIDAD ANTE TODO!

· Los trenes viajarán a velocidades de hasta 79 mph · Los trenes pueden venir de cualquier dirección, de día o de noche Espere hasta que las barreras de tren se levanten y las señales · Obedezca todas las señales en todos momentos (peatones · No camine sobre o cerca de las vías



PRUEBA DE RUTA NUEVA

Amtrak Cascades está reorientando permanentemente las vías de tren a través de Tacoma, a lo largo de I-5 entre Lakewood, JBLM y DuPont. Se realizarán pruebas de las nuevas rutas y señales desde mediados de enero hasta finales de febrero de 2017. Durante las pruebas, los trenes viajarán a velocidades de hasta 79 mph y vendrán de cualquier dirección, en cualquier momento, dia o noche. El servicio regular en la nueva ruta está programado para comenzar en el otoño de 2017.

Para más información, por favor visite: wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/Projects



Safety messaging and outreach

Working with Operation Lifesaver and Sound Transit

- Working with media along the corridor for stories about the testing.
- Mailed information to residents and businesses along the route.
- Distributed flyers and posters to businesses, schools, communities, and Sound Transit riders.
- Working with the cities to include info on their websites and newsletters.
- Running Doug Baldwin rail safety video at the two movie theaters in Lakewood.
- Ran ads in JBLM publications and Lakewood Business magazine.
- Geo-targeted ads on Pandora featuring Doug Baldwin with a safety message and an announcer talking about the testing.
- Leveraging WSDOT's and Sound Transit's social media channels to share information.







Questions?

For more information, please contact:

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