

# **Point Defiance Bypass Track and Signal Testing**

## **Tacoma City Council Study Session**

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# 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



# 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 66<sup>th</sup> 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

# ATTENTION!



**TRAIN TRACK AND SIGNAL TESTING IN YOUR AREA** | **MID-JANUARY THROUGH FEBRUARY 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

**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

WSDOT Amtrak CASCADES

**STAY BACK FROM THE TRACKS**

“Be safe around trains. Stay back from the tracks!”  
-Doug Baldwin



**NEW ROUTE TESTING**

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](http://wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/Projects)  
[StayBackFromTheTracks.com](http://StayBackFromTheTracks.com)

WSDOT Amtrak CASCADES

**STAY BACK FROM THE TRACKS**

# ¡ATENCIÓN!



**PRUEBAS DE VÍA DE TREN Y SEÑALES EN SU ÁREA** | **DESDE MEDIADOS DE ENERO 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 dejen de parpadear antes de continuar
- Obedezca todas las señales en todos momentos (peatones y vehículos)
- 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, día 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](http://wsdot.wa.gov/Rail/Projects)



“Ten cuidado cuando estés alrededor de las vías de trenes. ¡Mantente alejado de las vías!”  
-Doug Baldwin

[StayBackFromTheTracks.com](http://StayBackFromTheTracks.com)

WSDOT Amtrak CASCADES

**STAY BACK FROM THE TRACKS**



# 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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