

Staff note: Received from Dave Rowe on 6/1/2024. Dave explained this letter includes a correction from a previous version of this letter provided to staff at the 4/24/2024 CAG meeting.

Washington State Department of Transportation should include passenger rail service in the SR 503 Corridor Study Plan in. Rail travel is safer and provides equity to all citizens. Plus, rail freight and passenger service is better for the environment.

The Chelatchie Prairie Railroad parallels SR 503 from Vancouver to Chelatchie. WSDOT is currently in a study to improve transportation opportunities for SR 503 in Clark County. This concept study could use federal IIJA funding for a cost-benefit analysis and economic analysis. Regional Rail could greatly reduce the 143,000 autos crossing the Columbia River. Plus reduce travel time to Portland compared to auto travel. The current *Cascades/AMTRAK* trains travel from Vancouver to Portland in fifteen minutes. The planned MAX light Rail from Vancouver to Portland would take 35 minutes. To combat global warming SW Washington needs Regional Passenger Rail service.

