

**Washington State Department of Transportation Railroad Coordination
Railroad Coordination – Division Roles**

Generally, there are three divisions within WSDOT that work with railroad companies. These offices assist in various capacities. Below is a table of roles and responsibilities for each division.

Railroad Liaison in the Development Division	Regional Transit Coordination Division	Rail Freight and Ports Division
Support state highway projects that interact with or impact railroad property or operations. This includes WSDOT projects that impact Sound Transit conventional (heavy) rail lines and may also include light rail as needed. Design Manual Chapter 1350	Assist Sound Transit with light rail projects and BRT projects that impact state highways or WSDOT owned property. RTC provides oversight and inspection activities for these projects. RTC has Engineering Teams, a Business Team and support from Real Estate, Environmental, Communications.	Manage the Amtrak Cascades passenger rail system in conjunction with ODOT. Fund, operate and maintain.
In support of highway projects, update Department manuals, Standard Specifications, General Special Provisions, Request for Proposal templates as well editing final ad documents.	Write and coordinate Reimbursable, Air Space Lease (ASL) and Temporary Construction Airspace Lease (TCAL) agreements	Oversee the WSDOT-owned short line railroad in eastern Washington – the Palouse River & Coulee City Rail System. Fund, operate and maintain.
As part of highway project support and safety improvements to crossings, lead WSDOT participation in state regulatory proceedings (pursuant to Title 81 RCW) that involve WSDOT as the road authority.	The agreements can include: Construction, Design, Maintenance, Preservation, Professional Services, etc.	Plan the future of Washington's rail, freight and ports programs and projects.
Agency subject matter expert providing edits to standard plans (i.e., M11.10) for highway features related to railroad crossings.	Liaison between Sound Transit and WSDOT Offices (Risk Management, Real Estate, Utilities, etc.) regarding matters in which WSDOT is the subject matter expert. Helps with coordination of an agreement being written, but not the actual agreement writing.	Fund freight rail projects across the state through both grant and loan programs.
Ensure compliance with regulations and update safety measures for crossings connected to the state highway system. Investigate accidents or incidents to suggest highway improvements. Assist with identifying funding for improvements.		Coordinate with ports, regional planning organizations and other freight stakeholders across the state to align priorities.
Agency subject matter expert that participates in national efforts to study and improve public agency-RR coordination for highway project delivery and railroad grade crossing safety (such as NCUTCD, SHRP2, NCHRP and similar forums).		
Manage and coordinate development of Indirect Waiver Agreements with Railroads (including Sound Transit).	Assist with tracking the balance of costs for the indirect waiver of costs for Agreement GCB 1979 with Sound Transit.	
Point of contact for railroads that have projects that impact the state highway system.		