

THESE DAYS, IT SEEMS THAT WHEREVER YOU GO IN THE TREASURE VALLEY, YOU HEAR SOMEONE TALKING ABOUT TRAIN SERVICE POTENTIALLY COMING TO THE AREA...

Is it really going to happen? If so, what type of train would it be? Where would it go?

I keep hearing different stories...

The talk you hear about potential train service is true, and it's no surprise if you've heard conflicting information, because there are actually three different "train" efforts in the works and each is on a different "track" (yes, pun intended).

Each of these is in the early planning stages, with no guarantees they will come to fruition, though progress on any would likely help progress on others. However, they all still have logistical and funding hurdles ahead of them.

We're working hard, but it would still likely be at least 10 – 15 years before you can don your conductor's hat.

How would it be paid for?

Each system is different...

- Local/commuter: Federal transportation funding could potentially help "build" the system, but local funding would be needed to operate it.
- Mid-distance: Federal funding could support the system at first, but the States of Idaho and Utah would eventually need to fund operations.
- Long distance: The system would be funded and operated by Amtrak.

What else should I know?

- Track upgrades would be needed for any of these services to run on the existing train tracks.
- The local/commuter system might not be a "train" at all; COMPASS is studying a variety of options that include "bus rapid transit" in addition to trains.



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DID SOMEONE SAY TRAIN?

IS IT REALLY GOING TO HAPPEN IN THE TREASURE VALLEY?

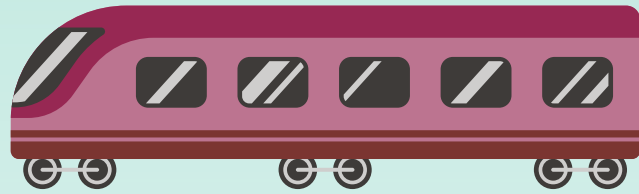


Did Someone Say "Train"?

Where will it go?

Who's taking the lead?

What's the status?



Local Commuter-Type Service

Most likely from Caldwell to Boise with stops in Nampa and Meridian; potentially west to Ontario and/or east to Mountain Home

The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) is taking the lead on planning, but Valley Regional Transit would likely operate the service.

This service is identified as an unfunded need in the regional long-range transportation plan. COMPASS, with multiple partners, is working on a "Planning and Environmental Linkages" study, which will move the project closer to being eligible for federal funding.



Mid-Distance: State-Supported Amtrak Service

From the Treasure Valley to Salt Lake City

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD), in cooperation with the City of Boise, Valley Regional Transit, the Utah Department of Transportation, Salt Lake City, and the Utah Transit Authority.

In 2023, the lead agencies applied for a grant to fund a "service development plan," but did not receive it. They are currently exploring other funding opportunities.



Long-Distance: Pioneer Line Amtrak Service

Most likely from Portland to Salt Lake City, with stop(s) in the Treasure Valley, among other places.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), who will report to Congress.

The FRA is conducting a study of long-distance services and will recommend routes that Amtrak should restore, enhance, or add. The final report and recommendation are due to Congress in 2024.