Pacific Central Station – Vancouver, British Columbia
Amtrak Cascades in British Columbia

- The major cities of the Pacific Northwest continue to attract new residents and businesses; Vancouver is one of the fastest growing cities in Canada

- To meet regional transportation demand, WSDOT and Amtrak re-started rail service to Vancouver, B.C. in 1995

- Now offering two daily roundtrips between Seattle/Portland and Vancouver, B.C.

- Total on-offs at Vancouver’s Pacific Central Station in 2015: 151,000

- Amtrak Cascades passengers spend $11 million in British Columbia each year

- No stops between Vancouver, B.C and Bellingham, WA
Cascades Operations at PCS

• Station serves same function as an international border crossing –but 53 km (or 33 miles) off the border

• Trains secured in locked cage while at PCS (yellow box in photo)

• All screening of inbound passengers by CBSA agents occurs at the station; nothing at the border

• U.S. CBP agents do a pre-inspection of passengers at PCS and a secondary inspection at the border (Blaine, WA)

• Pre-clearance will eliminate the second inspection and Cascades trains will cross border at 80 kph (50 mph)
Location of shared U.S. CBP and CBSA inspection facility within Pacific Central Station
U.S. CBP and CBSA officers pose with awards presented by WSDOT, ODOT and Amtrak for 20 years of safe operations at Pacific Central Station – October 21, 2015
Key Points for the EBTC

• Pacific Central Station is the only rail station in North America where the Canadian and U.S. border security agents share the same work space

• Amtrak’s point person worked closely with both U.S. CBP and CBSA to modify the historic facility to meet the needs of both

• Upgrades included secure data lines and servers

• Since upgrades to the station have already been made with input from both security agencies, WSDOT is not expecting that major modifications will be necessary for pre-clearance implementation at PCS

• Travel times between cities directly impacts ridership; pre-clearance will reduce Seattle/Vancouver B.C. by 10 minutes and help improve on-time performance; this is the key outcome for WSDOT, ODOT, and Amtrak