

Port of Whitman County

2022 STRATEGIC PLAN REPORT CARD



Port of Whitman County

In November 2020, the Port of Whitman County published its 2021-2025 Strategic Plan. The Port Commission held a public hearing on November 5, 2020, to obtain public opinion on its contents. The plan was also guided by periodic economic analysis reports conducted by University of Idaho economist Steve Peterson. Here's how the Port carried out its Strategic Plan in 2022:



7 strategic goals



26 completed projects



24 ongoing projects






LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

On November 17, 2020, the Port of Whitman County Commissioners adopted a Strategic Plan with seven goals to steer the Port's direction from 2021 to 2025. The goals address economic diversification, transportation, partnerships, real estate, finance, broadband and community outreach and engagement.

The year 2022 marked many significant milestones in the Port's history. We received grants from the Washington State Department of Ecology, Washington State Broadband Office, Community Economic Revitalization Board and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). We sold two properties in Pullman Industrial Park to make way for a locally owned winery and manufacturing business to grow and generate additional jobs in the community. Our general aviation airport, Port of Whitman Business Air Center, was re-classified as a local airport, resulting in additional FAA funding. In partnership with Whitman County, we rehabilitated the original road at the Port of Wilma that serves 17 local businesses, which in turn, support \$20.4 million in compensation and 385 jobs. The Commission voted to eliminate the boat launch fees at Boyer Park & Marina and designate the launch as public. And we collaborated with Avista Utilities, Partners for Rural WA-Eastern Region, Washington State University Whitman County Extension and the Whitman County Rural Library District to form the first Whitman County Broadband Action Team.

To read the full 2021-2025 Strategic Plan and its accompanying Comprehensive Plan of Harbor Improvements, please visit www.portwhitman.com and click "Port Planning" from the "Our Port" tab. While these plans undergo revisions and a formal public comment process every five years, we welcome feedback any time at our bimonthly public meetings, or you may contact Port staff at 509-397-3791 or port@portwhitman.com.



Karl Webber
District 1



Kristine Meyer
District 2



Tom Kammerzell
District 3

1

DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Received \$10,000 state Department of Ecology grant to create brownfields knowledge base for Whitman County
- Received \$50,000 CERB grant to conduct a feasibility study of a Biological Systems and Mechanical and Materials Engineering Tech Transfer Building
- Sold Lot 9 in Pullman Industrial Park to Merry Cellars for expanded winery business
- Sold Henley Court to manufacturing business Addium Inc.



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Support value-added agricultural projects with Washington State University, OnePalouse and Southeast Washington Economic Development Association
- Offer site-ready lots for sale or lease to business owners
- Continue to explore industrial property acquisition in County

2

ENCOURAGE BALANCED, ECONOMICAL MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Hosted the 2022 Colfax Fly-In at the Port of Whitman Business Air Center to promote aviation
- Participated in focus group sessions with consultant compiling the Lower Snake River Dams Benefit Replacement Report to provide perspective on Snake River navigation
- Updated airport classification from basic to local, resulting in additional Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) funding



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Participate in Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization, Washington Airport Management Association, Palouse-Coulee City Railroad Board and Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport Advisory Board
- Collaborate with Whitman County Commissioners to maintain and improve the Port of Whitman Business Air Center and other port industrial parks with county roads

3 COLLABORATE TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Rehabilitated original Wilma Drive at Port of Wilma in partnership with Whitman County
- Collaborated with Lewis-Clark Valley and Pullman Chambers of Commerce to hold the 2022 Eastern Washington Legislative Tour
- Commissioner Meyer served as the president of the Washington Public Ports Association, collaborating with other port districts to promote economic development across Washington State



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Support Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport
- Explore potential ways to support the City of Tekoa Airport
- Support Southeast Washington Economic Development Association, OnePalouse, Inland Northwest Partners, Pioneer Ports, Small Business Development Center, Valley Vision and the following Chambers of Commerce: Colfax, Pullman, Palouse and Tekoa

4 ACQUIRE, DEVELOP & MAINTAIN PROPERTIES



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Completed Snake River Trail crack and asphalt seal project.
- Completed asphalt rehabilitation at Port of Whitman Business Air Center with 95% grant funding
- Replaced part of Henley Court roof and completed parking lot crack and surface seal project
- Eliminated boat launch fees at Boyer Park & Marina and designated the launch as public



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Add a fuel station to the Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Replace and rehabilitate the original marina docks at Boyer Park
- Work with City of Colfax to provide City water to Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Beacon design at Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Private hangar development at Port of Whitman Business Air Center

5 IMPROVE OUR FINANCIAL POSITION



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Developed model to analyze investments in projects outside of the county and calculate a reduction in the collected levy based on ROI
- Management agreement with Petrichor Broadband covered 75% of the wages and benefits of Port Executive Director and Special Projects Administrator
- Executed interlocal agreement with Port of Skagit, resulting in Skagit covering remaining 25% of Special Projects Administrator salary and benefits for the fourth quarter of 2022



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Continue to seek and apply for grant funding and low-interest loans to complete capital infrastructure projects
- Minimize reliance on tax revenue for operations by investing and reinvesting in economic development projects that generate revenue
- Compile schedule to replace aging assets to better Port's financial position

6 EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Completed fiber buildout to Tekoa Mountain
- Received \$1,062,000 Washington State Broadband Office (WSBO) grant to construct last-mile fiber network in Steptoe and Diamond
- Received \$433,730 WSBO match grant for Malden/Pine City network
- Helped form the Whitman County Broadband Action Team
- Assisted the Whitman County Broadband Action Team and Whitman County Library with receipt of a Digital Navigator grant



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Build fiber-to-the-home network to serve Malden/Pine City areas not being built by the incumbent license exchange carrier
- Build fiber-to-the-home network to serve Steptoe and Diamond
- Build fiber infrastructure at Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Manage Petrichor Broadband, a municipal corporation expanding broadband access to underserved communities across WA

7 ENHANCE COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Increased Port email news subscriptions by 61%
- Held the 2022 Snake River Family Festival and established a recurring date of the second weekend in June for future events
- Promoted Snake River Family Festival, river transportation and ports at Tri Cities' RiverFest and downtown Colfax event
- Supported media campaigns communicating the value of the Columbia-Snake River System



ONGOING PROJECTS

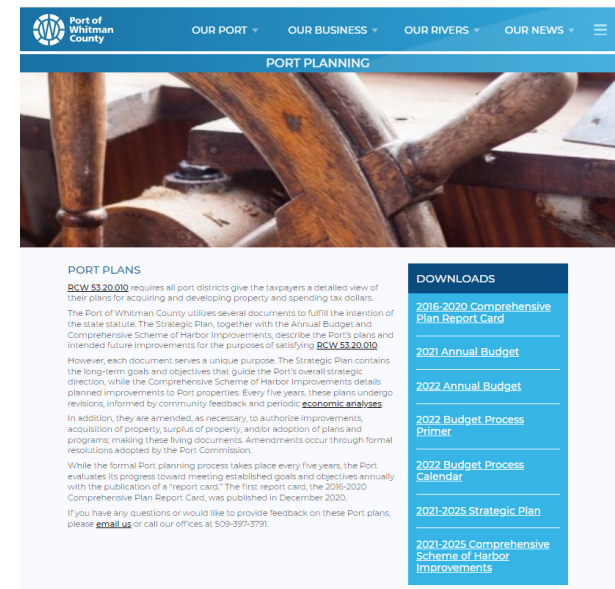
- Publish email newsletters
- Maintain digital Media Center with regular press releases and blog articles at www.portwhitman.com
- Host annual Snake River Family Festival
- Participate in regional communications/port industry groups



ADDITIONAL PORT PLANS

RCW 53.20.010 requires all port districts give the taxpayers a detailed view of their plans for acquiring and developing property and spending tax dollars. The Port of Whitman County utilizes several documents to fulfill the intention of the state statute. The Strategic Plan, together with the Annual Budget and Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements, describe the Port's plans and intended future improvements for the purposes of satisfying RCW 53.20.010.

Each document serves a unique purpose. While the Strategic Plan contains the long-term goals and objectives that guide the Port's overall strategic direction, the Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements details planned improvements to Port properties. To learn more and read additional Port plans, please visit www.portwhitman.com/port-planning.



www.portwhitman.com/port-planning



WWW.PORTWHITMAN.COM

|

509-397-3791

|

302 N. MILL ST., COLFAX, WA