



**Port of
Whitman
County**

Port of Whitman County
**2023 STRATEGIC PLAN
REPORT CARD**

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 2023:



7 strategic goals



27 completed projects



23 ongoing projects



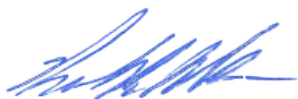


LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Thank you to everyone who engaged with the Port of Whitman County in 2023 by joining our Commission meetings, participating in our bimonthly Economic Development Informational Meetings, attending the 2023 Snake River Family Festival or chatting with us one-on-one over a cup of coffee. Public input steered the direction of the Port this year, advancing some longtime projects to completion and demonstrating other project ideas should not move forward as originally conceptualized.

In 2023, the Port cut the ribbon on our long-term project to replace and rehabilitate the original docks at Boyer Park & Marina and unveiled the newly modernized marina to boaters in the spring. (The ribbon cutting ceremony held on June 10, 2023 is pictured on the cover). In the fall, the Port completed a multi-year project to install fiber-to-the-home around Pine City and Malden, two areas devastated by fires in the fall of 2020. Other projects took a step forward with federal and state grant and loan funding announcements. In 2023, we received over \$2 million in grants and \$3.6 million in low-interest loans. These funds will allow the Port to build fiber infrastructure on the outskirts of Palouse, Garfield, Oakesdale, Tekoa and Rosalia; support the expansion of Hunga Dunga Brewing into Pullman; identify and assess brownfield properties throughout Whitman County; and expand rail and water infrastructure to a Port of Central Ferry lot, among other projects. The following pages of this report card describe other projects that were completed or initiated this year and how they relate to our seven strategic goals.

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 biweekly 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

- Named the Associate Development Organization (ADO) for Whitman County charged with serving as the lead agency on local economic development activities
- Received a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to identify and assess brownfield properties throughout Whitman County for possible revitalization
- Completed a feasibility study funded by the Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) to study a proposed technology transfer and commercialization scaling center at Pullman Industrial Park



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 2023 Colfax Fly-In at the Port of Whitman Business Air Center to promote aviation
- Completed project to replace a rotating airport beacon at the Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Supported media campaigns communicating the value of the 465-mile river “highway” that is the Columbia-Snake River System



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Advocate for a robust rail, aviation, highway and river system through participation in the Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization, Washington Airport Management Association, Palouse-Coulee City Railroad Board, Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport Advisory Board, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association and Northwest RiverPartners
- 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

- Partnered with the Ports of Lewiston and Clarkston to host the first “Freight Network: Lower Snake and Columbia Rivers (M-84) Trade Corridor” Workshop in Clarkston in May for river system operators
- Joined steering committee for “Dream It, Do It” youth workforce development conference by Clearwater Economic Development Association
- Entered into economic development agreements with the City of Pullman and the City of Tekoa, respectively, to partner on economic development and tourism initiatives
- Worked with City of Colfax to provide City water to Port of Whitman Business Air Center



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 long-term project to replace and rehabilitate original docks at Boyer Park & Marina and opened new marina to boaters
- Received \$1.6 million low-interest loan to expand rail and water infrastructure to a Port of Central Ferry lot to support the private development of a fertilizer facility
- Acquired a 14-acre property northwest of Tekoa for a planned industrial real estate development opportunity
- Received a \$2 million low-interest loan to support the expansion of Hunga Dunga Brewing into Pullman



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Private hangar development at Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Prepare to construct a new building at Pullman Industrial Park for Hunga Dunga Brewing to lease for a production facility and taproom
- Clean up the topsoil at the newly acquired Tekoa lot prior to developing a site-ready industrial real estate opportunity

5 IMPROVE OUR FINANCIAL POSITION



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Compiled schedule to replace aging assets to better Port's financial position
- Developed inventory of existing credit accounts to better leverage Port's operating resources and decrease fraud risk
- Executed leases with Helena Chemical Co. and AGROW Solutions at the Port of Central Ferry
- Executed lease with Plug Power at Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Received over \$2 million in grants and \$3.6 million in low-interest loans



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Develop model key performance indicators to aid governing body in making informed decisions
- 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 county-wide economic development projects that generate revenue

6 EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Completed multi-year project to install fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) around Pine City and Malden
- Completed a last-mile fiber network project to bring Gig-speed broadband access around unincorporated Steptoe and Diamond
- Received \$1.1 million grant to build fiber infrastructure on the outskirts of Palouse, Garfield, Oakesdale, Tekoa and Rosalia.
- Led BAT efforts to develop Whitman County's Broadband Action Plan and Digital Equity Plan



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Build fiber infrastructure at Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Build fiber infrastructure to about 104 homes on the outskirts of Palouse, Garfield, Oakesdale, Tekoa and Rosalia
- Manage Petrichor Broadband, a municipal corporation expanding broadband access to underserved communities across WA
- Facilitate Whitman County Broadband Action Team meetings

7 ENHANCE COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Held the annual Snake River Family Festival June 10 at Boyer Park & Marina to communicate the importance of the Columbia-Snake River System to Whitman County and the Pacific Northwest
- Supported media campaigns communicating the value of hydropower and navigation on the Columbia and Snake Rivers
- Launched Whitman County Economic Development Informational Meeting (EDIM) program to share updates on county-wide economic development efforts bimonthly
- Shared about multimodal transportation and the Port's initiatives to Washington high school students interested in transportation



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Publish email newsletters
- Maintain digital Media Center with regular press releases and blog articles at www.portwhitman.com
- Increase participation in the town and city council meetings for each of the 15 cities and towns in Whitman County
- 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.

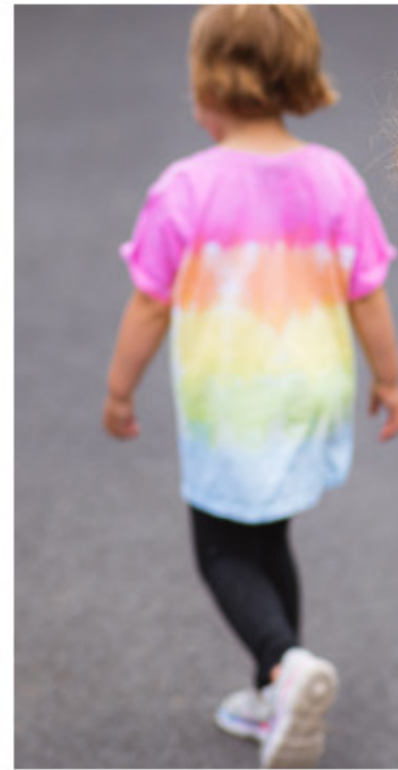
PORT PLANS

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DOWNLOADS

- 2016-2020 Comprehensive Plan Report Card
- 2021 Annual Budget
- 2022 Annual Budget
- 2022 Budget Process Primer
- 2022 Budget Process Calendar
- 2021-2025 Strategic Plan
- 2021-2025 Comprehensive Scheme of Harbor Improvements

www.portwhitman.com/port-planning







Port of Whitman County

WWW.PORTWHITMAN.COM

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