



**Port of
Whitman
County**

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**2024 STRATEGIC PLAN
REPORT CARD**



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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 is how the Port carried out its Strategic Plan in 2024:



7 strategic goals



29 completed projects



21 ongoing projects





LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Thank you to everyone who engaged with the Port of Whitman County in 2024. Whether you joined our Commission meetings, provided input during community outreach events, attended the 2024 Snake River Family Festival (pictured above), participated in our Economic Development Informational Meetings, or chatted with us one-on-one, we are grateful for your continued involvement.

In 2024, the Port expanded our presence in communities across Whitman County through our partnerships and projects. We began brownfields community-wide assessment work with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency, signed economic development and tourism agreements with the Oakesdale Cemetery Association and the Town of Uniontown, and explored childcare facility feasibility options in Colfax. In the fall, the Port completed a planning study for our Tekoa industrial development property, expanded rail and water infrastructure at the Port of Central Ferry, purchased property in St. John, and received planning study funding for the historic Oakesdale Mill. The Port also continued serving as Whitman County's Associate Development Organization in 2024 and invested in broadband across Whitman County. The following pages of this report card describe all of the 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 email port@portwhitman.com.

Karl Webber
District 1

Kristine Meyer
District 2

Tom Kammerzell
District 3

1

DIVERSIFY OUR ECONOMY



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Expanded rail and water infrastructure at the Port of Central Ferry to support AGROW Solutions expansion
- Supported the Palouse Scenic Byway Association's video campaign highlighting 11 communities across Whitman County
- Executed a lease with Hefty Seed Company at Tekoa industrial site
- Completed a planning study for Tekoa industrial site, with funding from the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Offer site-ready lots for sale or lease to business owners
- Explore industrial property acquisition in Whitman County
- Complete a planning study for the Oakesdale Mill, with funding from the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)
- Assess brownfields across Whitman County with funding from the Environmental Protection Agency
- Support business retention and expansion as Whitman County's Associate Development Organization (ADO)
- Develop partnerships and funding strategies for the construction of a technology transfer and commercialization scaling facility at Pullman Industrial Park

2

ENCOURAGE BALANCED, ECONOMICAL MULTIMODAL TRANSPORT



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Promoted aviation by supporting the 2024 Colfax Fly-In at the Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Recommended the City of Tekoa's Willard Field Renovation Project to Whitman County for Economic Development (.09) Funds consideration
- Participated in Pacific Northwest Waterways Association's annual Mission to Washington D.C. to meet with lawmakers and their offices
- Supported media campaigns communicating the value of the 465-mile river "highway" that is the Columbia-Snake River System



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Analyze siting options for an Automated Weather Observing System at the Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Advocate for a robust rail, aviation, highway and river system through participation in the Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization, Washington Airport Management Association, Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, Palouse-Coulee City Railroad Board, Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport Advisory Board, and Northwest River Partners

3 COLLABORATE TO DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Partnered with regional ports to host “Charting the Course: The M-84 Corridor’s Journey Toward a Clean Energy Future” workshop
- Executed Economic Development & Tourism Agreements with the Town of Uniontown for the Holzer Park restroom renovation and the Oakesdale Cemetery Association for a cellular tower access road
- Submitted a successful Evergreen Growth Grant application to the Washington State Department of Commerce on behalf of Alternative Energy Materials, a Whitman County green hydrogen start-up
- Presented at and supported Clearwater Economic Development Association’s “Dream It, Do It...Here!” youth workforce conference
- Hosted the annual Innovation Forum for economic development partners and elected officials



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Support Southeast Washington Economic Development Association, Inland Northwest Partners, Pioneer Ports, Washington Small Business Development Center and Chambers of Commerce in Colfax, Pullman, Palouse & Tekoa
- Maintain the Whitman County Trends site, providing the public with access to countywide data and trends

4 ACQUIRE, DEVELOP & MAINTAIN PROPERTIES



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Acquired Oakesdale Mill property from Innovia Foundation
- Purchased property in St. John for cleanup and reuse by Whitman Hospital & Medical Clinics for a new clinic location
- Signed an earnest money agreement for a property in Colfax as a potential site for a new childcare facility
- Redetermined rents for tenants at Port properties



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Develop private hangars at Port of Whitman Business Air Center
- Pursue brownfields cleanup funding for property in St. John
- Continue feasibility study on childcare facility in Colfax

5 IMPROVE OUR FINANCIAL POSITION



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Received \$500,000 in grant funding
- Developed an investment philosophy to provide decision-making guidelines for Port projects and investments
- Completed financial accountability and a federal single audit performed by the Office of the Washington State Auditor
- Implemented a capital reserves policy
- Developed model key performance indicators to aid governing body in making informed decisions



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Continue to seek and apply for grant funding and low-interest loans to complete capital infrastructure projects

6 EXPAND BROADBAND ACCESS



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Built fiber at Port of Whitman Business Air Center, serving 19 locations
- Completed fiber to a new Oakesdale tower site
- Conducted a pilot study of Tarana wireless equipment
- Submitted an application for funding from the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) for a fiber-to-the-home project serving approximately 100 homes in Whitman County



ONGOING PROJECTS

- Facilitate Whitman County Broadband Action Team meetings
- Manage Petrichor Broadband, a municipal corporation expanding broadband access to under-served communities across Washington State
- Prepare materials for federal Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program (BEAD) funding application with key partners

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7 ENHANCE COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT



COMPLETED PROJECTS

- Held the 2024 Snake River Family Festival 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 Port social media accounts on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Twitter/X



ONGOING PROJECTS

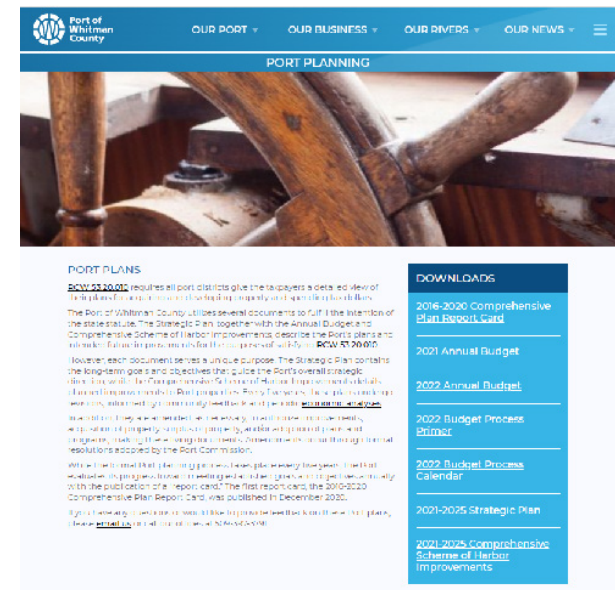
- Participate in regional communications and port industry groups
- Conduct an annual survey of elected officials on the Port's progress and public perception
- Host regular Economic Development Informational Meetings to provide elected officials and community members updates on the Port's work as Whitman County's Associate Development Organization



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 the 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.



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WWW.PORTWHITMAN.COM

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