

May 28, 2025
11:45 am – 1:30 pm
The Center
110 S. Main St.
Colfax, WA



**Port of
Whitman
County**

Whitman County Economic Development Informational Meeting (EDIM)

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www.portwhitman.com

9th District Legislative Update



Senator Mark Schoesler



Representative Mary Dye



Representative Joe Schmick

Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Update

- Juan Garcia, Business Advisor, juan.garcia@wsbdc.org



CASE TOTALS (Clients)

Number of Clients Counseled	23
Number of New Clients	10

Company Status

Pre-venture/Nascent	7
Startups	4
In Business	13



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Economic Profiling

Select Economic Indicators:

- [Washington State Employment Security Department](#)
- Labor Market
- Whitman County Median Home Price
- Whitman County Retail Sales Tax Distributions

Want additional data?

Visit www.whitmancountytrends.org.

Labor Market



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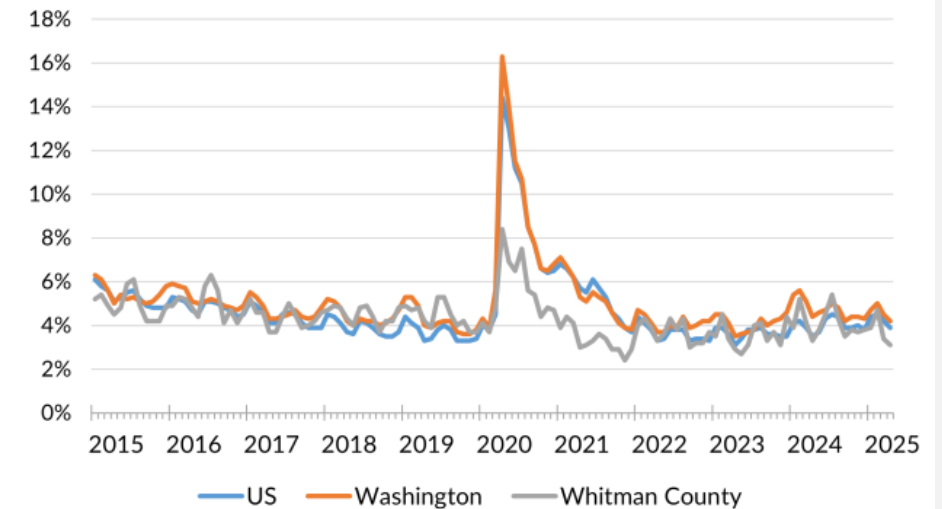
Unemployment remains low but experiences shifts when compared to WA

- Unemployment decreased from 3.4% (March) to 3.1% (April)
- WA unemployment rate held steady at 4.4%

State	County	Civilian labor force	Employment	Unemployment	Unemployment rate
WA	Asotin	9,815	9,545	270	2.8%
WA	Whitman	20,974	20,327	647	3.1%
WA	Kittitas	28,376	27,419	957	3.4%
WA	Walla Walla	26,898	25,976	922	3.4%
WA	Garfield	824	795	29	3.5%

Full Table in Packet

Unemployment rate, not seasonally adjusted



Whitman County profile | Employment Security Department

Labor Market

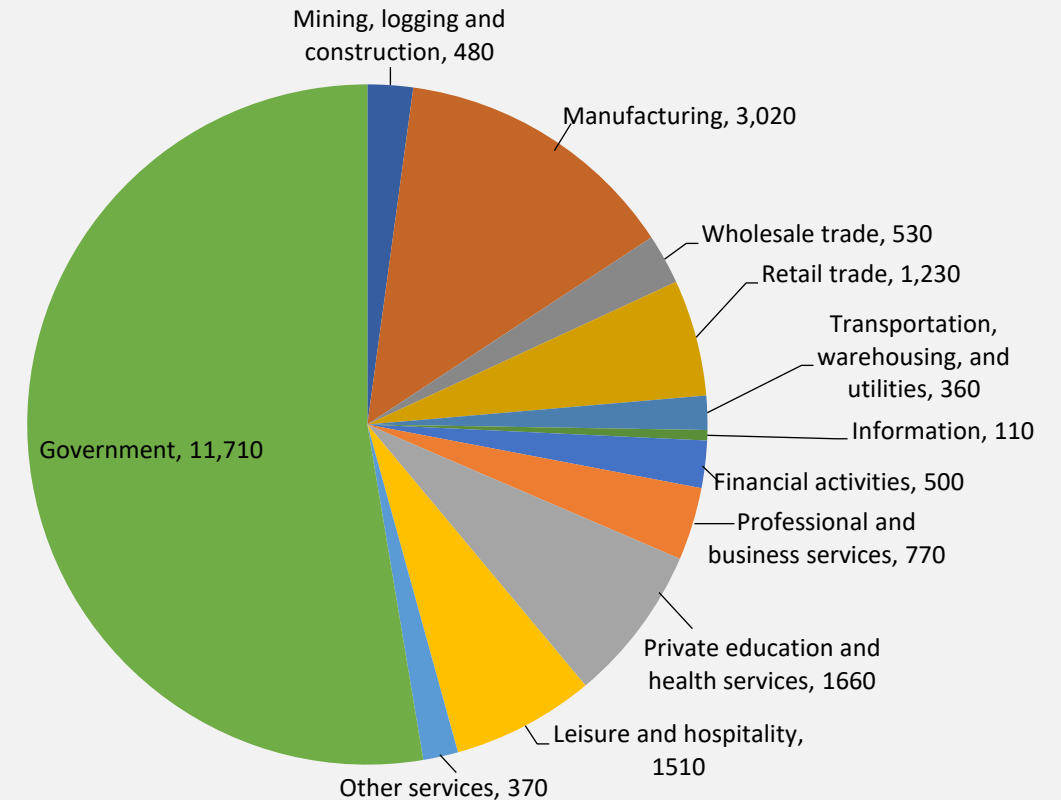
Momentum in manufacturing is helping add resilience

- Manufacturing had the most significant gain
 - 3.4% (100 jobs) from April 2024
- Leisure and Hospitality has the most significant loss
 - -14.7% (260 jobs) from April 2024
- Government had a loss of 3.9% (470 jobs)



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Employment Estimates by NAICS Codes



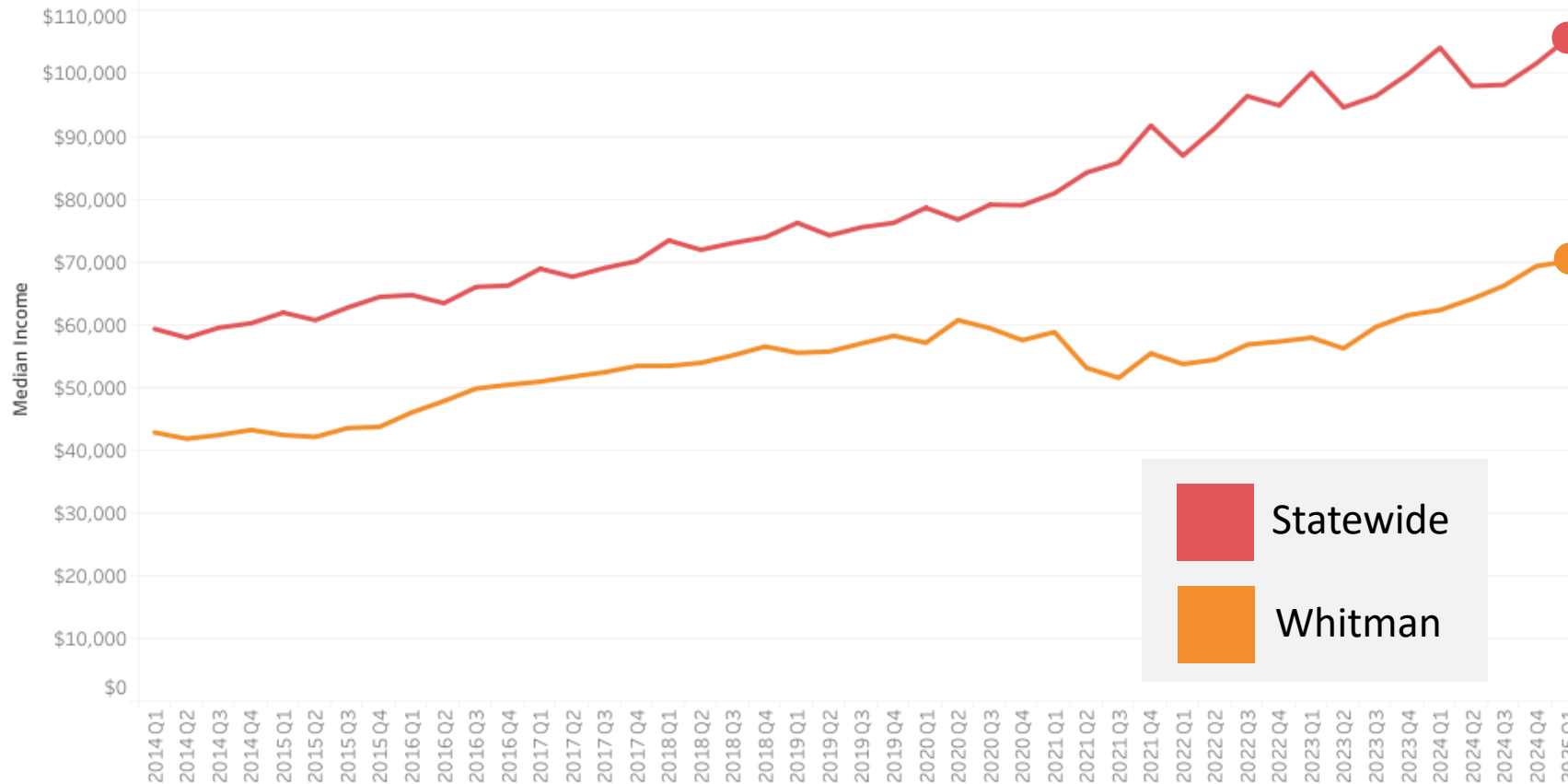
Whitman County profile | Employment Security Department

Median Income



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Median Income



Location:	WA Statewide
Period:	2025 Q1
Median Income:	\$105,700
2024 Q4 % Change:	4.04%

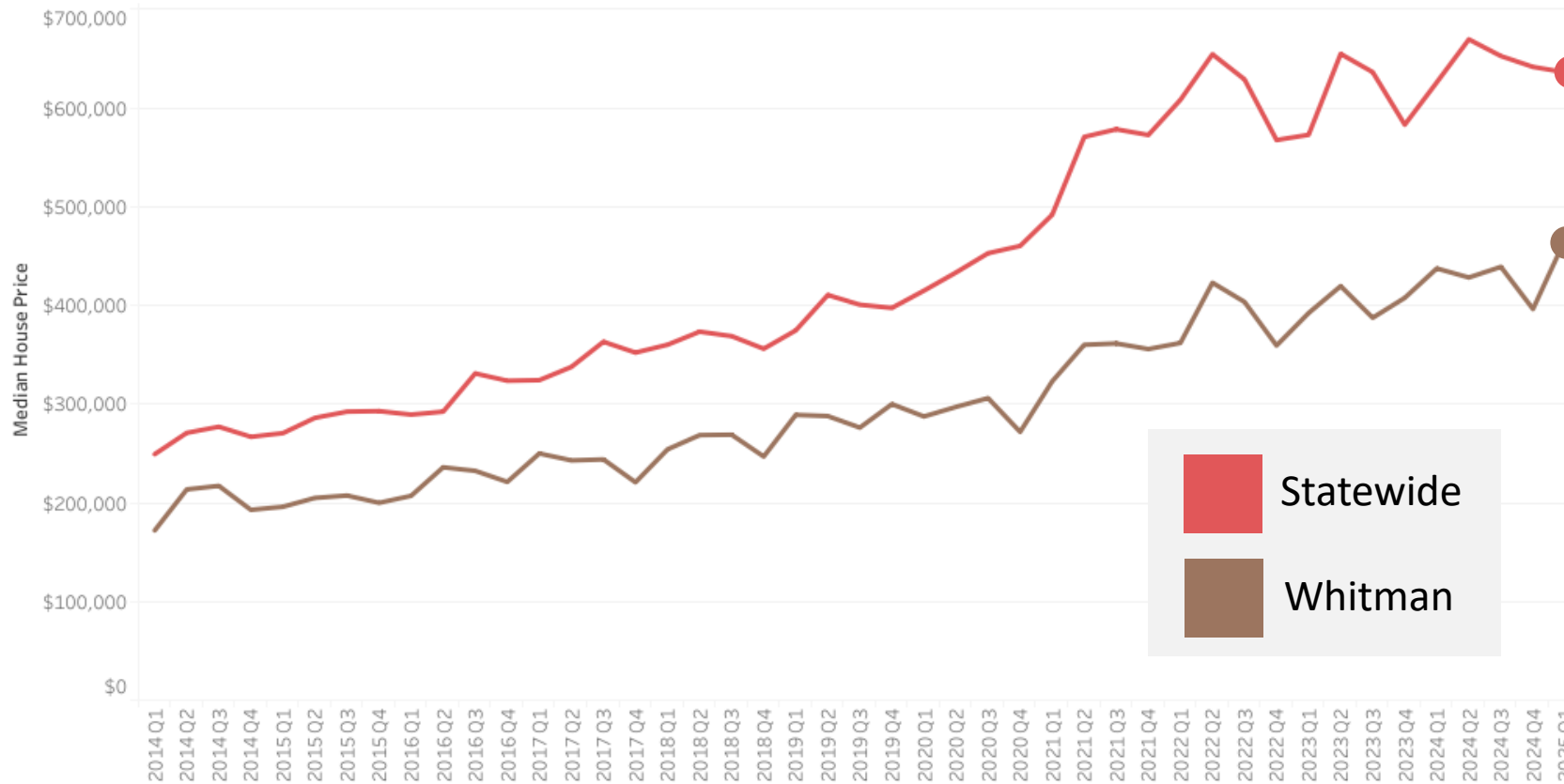
Location:	Whitman County
Period:	2025 Q1
Median Income:	\$70,100
2024 Q4 % Change:	1.15%

Median House Price



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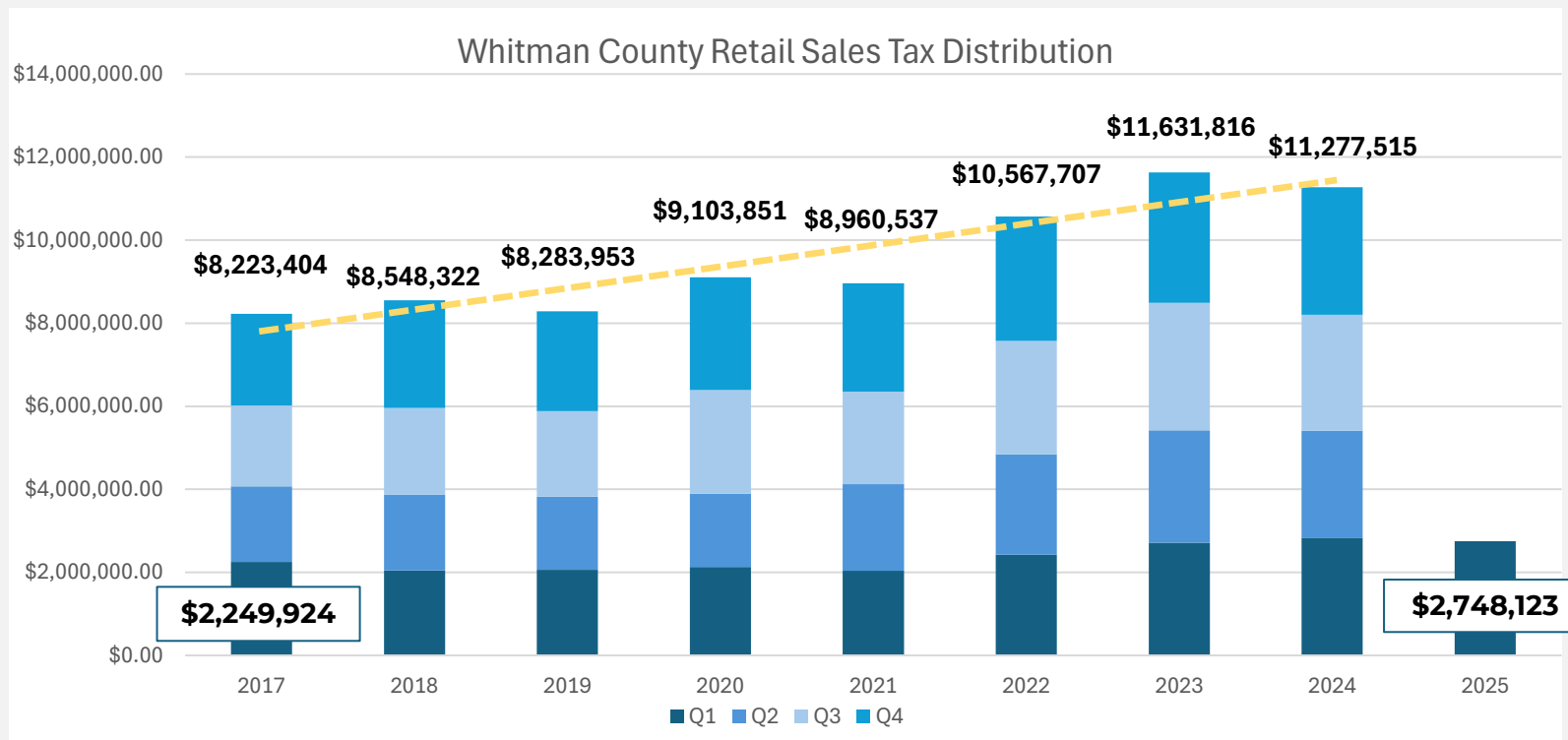
Median House Price



Location:	WA Statewide
Period:	2025 Q1
Median Income:	\$636,200
2024 Q4 % Change:	-0.86%

Location:	Whitman County
Period:	2025 Q1
Median Income:	\$466,700
2024 Q4 % Change:	17.73%

Retail Sales Tax Distributions



Washington State Department of Revenue

Compound Annual Growth Rate

- Total ('17 – '24): 4.62%
- Q1 ('17-25): 2.53%
- Q2 ('17-24): 4.45%
- Q3 ('17-24): 4.55%
- Q4 ('17-24): 4.26%

Business Recruitment, Marketing & Advertising



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COMMERCE LEADS			
DATE	TYPE OF BUSINESS	CRITERIA	BENEFITS
March 2025	Advanced Manufacturing	150,000 sq ft including 100,000 sq ft clean room; 10,000KVA	FTE: 100
March 2025	SAF & Methanol Production	SAF Facility: 23 acres, 10MW Methanol Facility: 6 acres, 4MW; Proximity to biomass sources, ports, refineries	FTE: 25-55 Capital Investment: \$100-150M
April 2025	Domestic Food & Beverage	80+ acres, 10-14MW with 55-60MW capacity at full buildout, 5M gallons / day, natural gas	FTE: 200
May 2025	Asphalt Distribution Facility	15-40 acres zoned heavy industrial with rail access, dual access for trucking, natural gas, potable water, electrical, and sewer	FTE & Capital Investment Unknown

US-195 Colfax North Fork Bridge Replacement



**Washington State
Department of Transportation**



Introductions

- Charlene Kay – Regional Administrator
- Tom Brasch P.E. – Assistant Regional Administrator
- Jody Qualley P.E. – Project Engineer
- Michael Walton P.E. – Assistant Project Engineer
- Patrick Barclay P.E. – Project Manager

Project Overview

- Removal of (2) existing bridges
 - SR 26 and US 195
- Constructing (1) new bridge between the removed bridges
- Reconfigure intersection between US 195 and SR 26



Photo via Google Earth showing project location

Project Overview – Existing Bridges

- US-195 Bridge
 - Constructed in 1931 (93 years ago)
- SR-26 Bridge
 - Constructed in 1938 (86 years ago)
- Both bridges are at the end of their service lives. This project will replace both bridges with a single, larger bridge.
- In the 1960s, the Army Corps constructed a concrete channel under these bridges to address flooding issues

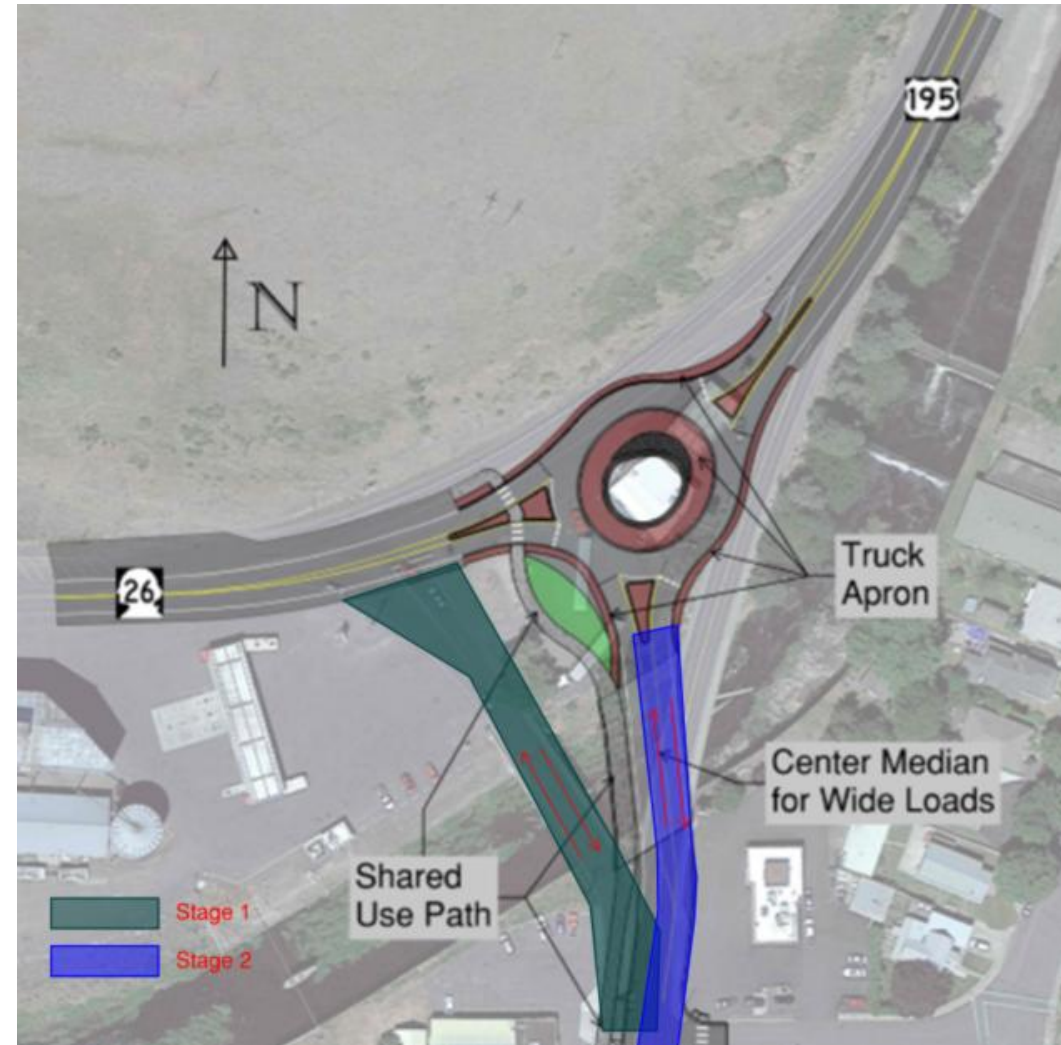


Existing Bridge Conditions



Construction Staging / Traffic Access

- Access to businesses will be maintained throughout the entire project duration
- Construction will be staged in a way that ensures pedestrians and vehicles have a path to cross at any time
- Stage 1:
 - Remove existing US 195 bridge
 - Construct North side of bridge
 - Install shoring and temporary barriers
- Stage 2:
 - Remove existing SR 26 bridge
 - Construct South side of bridge
 - Remove shoring



-
- Diagram illustrating the cross-section of a concrete curb. The curb is 26" wide at the base and 10" high. The top surface is 16" wide. The left side is vertical. The right side is sloped at a 4:1 ratio. The top edge has a 1/2" R. (TYP.) radius. The bottom edge has a 1/2" R. radius. The curb is labeled "MATCH ROADWAY SLOPE" and "FACE OF CURB". A note "(SEE NOTE 2)" points to the curb. A dimension "VARIES" is shown for the height of the curb.



Complete Streets

All state transportation projects over \$500,000 must ensure new facilities provide street access with all user in mind (bikes, pedestrians, public transportation)

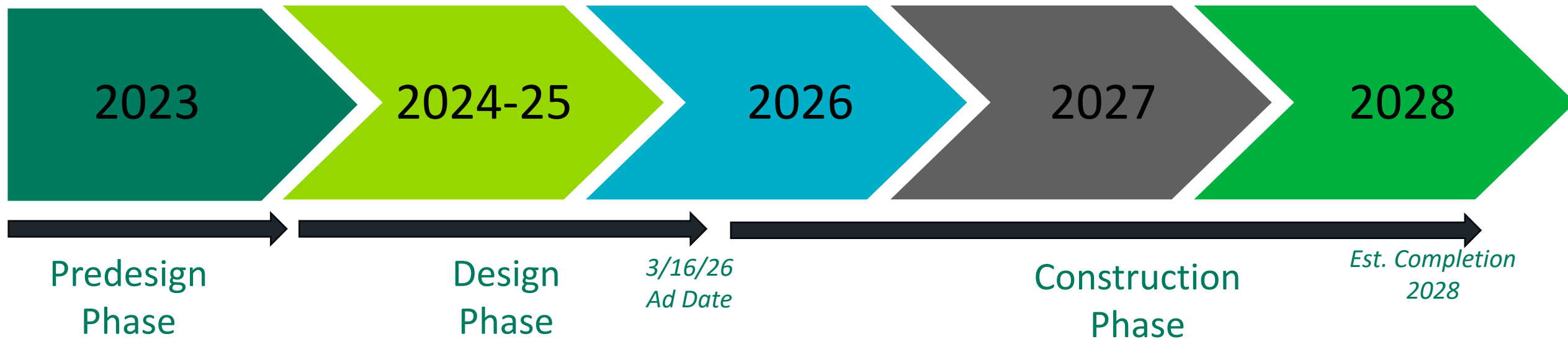


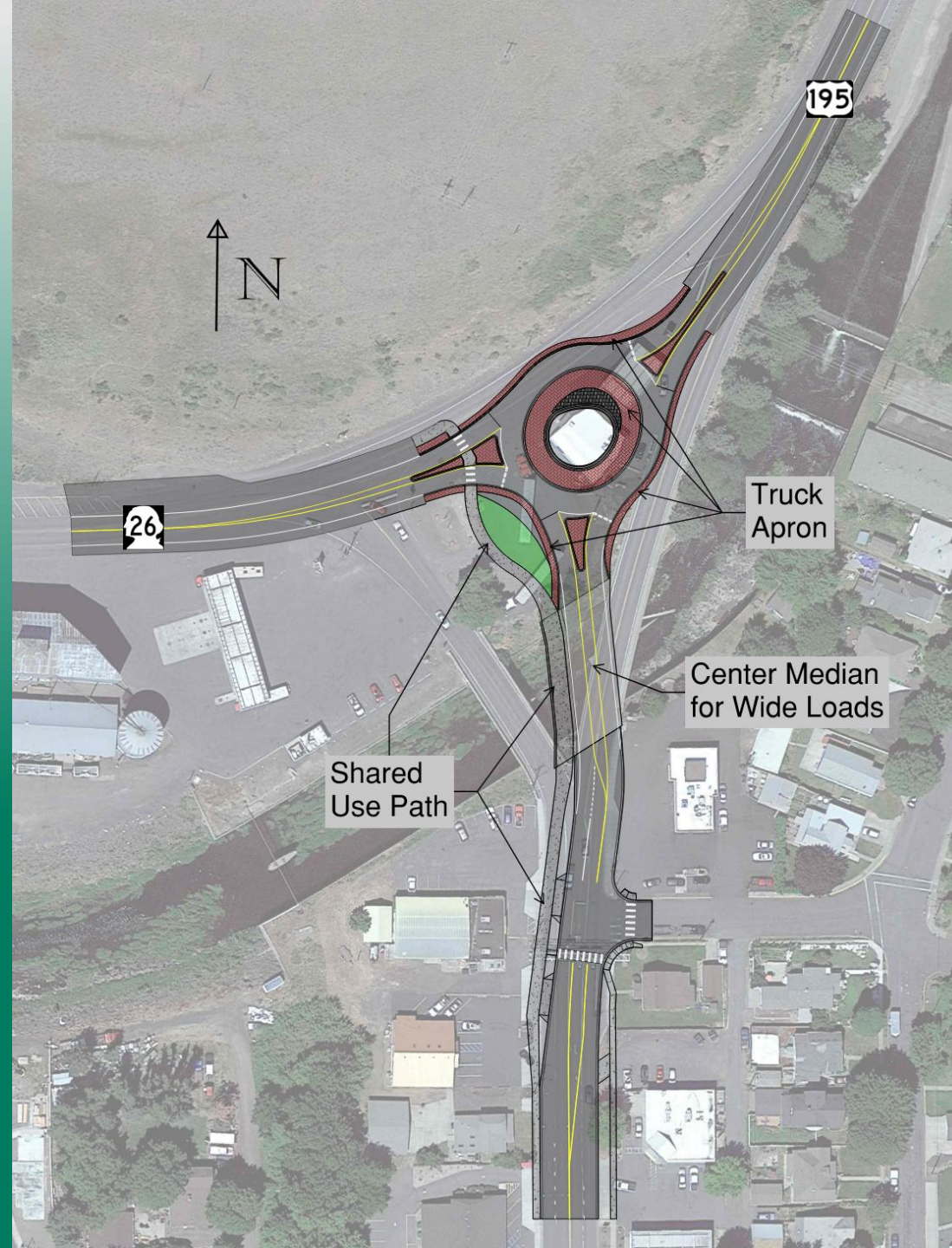
Example of a Complete Street

- Safety of drivers and pedestrians will increase
- Functionality of entering and exiting Colfax will be improved
- Creates a more walkable community

- WSDOT used your feedback for solutions on a more pedestrian friendly city
- Included desire to walk across the bridges to access businesses such as Les Schwab, Zips, Subway, or other businesses
- Final design chosen was a shared use path allowing for bicyclists and pedestrians to use path at the same time running throughout the project and connecting to the existing sidewalk south of the bridge

Project Timeline





IACC Technical Assistance Requests



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- Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council (IACC) helps bring infrastructure projects to reality
- Technical Assistance Meetings
 - Offered in-person at IACC conference (applications open in July)
- IACC Conference
October 7-9, 2025
Wenatchee Convention Center

A sample of the 'Infrastructure Technical Assistance Request' form. The form includes fields for Jurisdiction/Entity, County, Contact Person, Phone Number, Email Address, Project or System Type, and Project / Problem. It also contains instructions on how to use the form to request technical assistance throughout the year.

Infrastructure Technical Assistance Request

Use this form to request technical assistance throughout the year. Please share as much information about your infrastructure challenge as possible. Complete information will allow us to bring together the right regulatory, technical, and funding assistance to address your unique challenge.

Jurisdiction/Entity *

County *

Select or enter value

Contact Person *

Phone Number *

Email Address *

Project or System Type *

Select or enter value

Project / Problem

What project or problem is your community working on?

Save the Date!

- Learn how MRSC Rosters can save your government agency time and money
- Participate in the APEX Center's coordinated networking opportunity
- MRSC Rosters Public Works Seminar
July 30, 2025, 1:30pm-4:30pm
The Center, Colfax, WA



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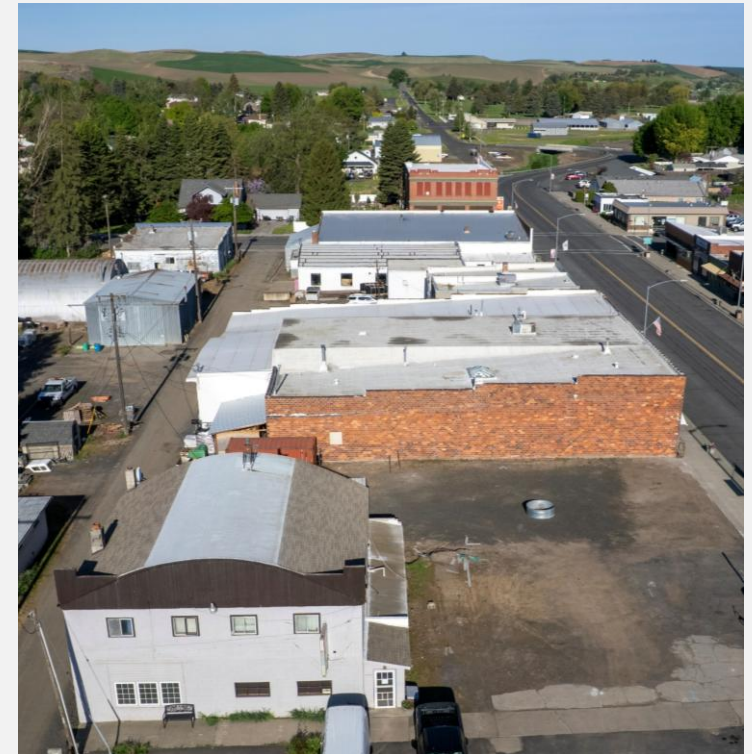


St. John Cleanup Project Update



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- \$500,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant awarded
- Proposed cleanup plan:
 - Excavate subsurface contaminated soil
 - Monitor groundwater quality
 - Demolish on-site structure
 - Backfill excavated area with imported soil to prepare for construction





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Technology Transfer Facility Update

- \$2M Green Jobs Grant from Washington Department of Commerce
- Facility will support pilot-scale testing, development, and commercialization
- Continue to receive community support for project
 - Over 150 letters of support from 26 community leaders



Closing

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Email: ado@portwhitman.com
Next EDIM: July 30, 2025



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