



Whitman County Economic Development Informational Meeting

December 3, 2025
11:45 am – 1:30 pm
The Center, Colfax

Economic Development Informational Meetings (EDIMs) are updates on the Port's implementation of the ADO's economic development plan. No business or official actions will be taken by the Port Commissioners.

Agenda

1. **Welcome and Introductions** – 12:00 pm
2. **2025 Economic Development Plan**
 - a. **Small Business Development**
 - Washington Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Update **(Exhibit 1)** – Juan Garcia, Certified Business Advisor
 - b. **Economic Profiling**
 - Whitman County Retail Sales Tax Distribution **(Exhibit 2)**
 - c. **Existing Business Retention & Expansion**
 - New & Expanding Businesses in Whitman County
 - d. **Business Recruitment/Marketing & Advertising**
 - Commerce Leads **(Exhibit 3)**
 - Project NOVA & Tekoa Business Recruitment **(Exhibit 4)**
 - e. **Sites & Infrastructure**
 - Infrastructure Assistance Coordinating Council Conference Takeaways – Roy Schulz, Mayor of Tekoa; Angela Bennett, LaCrosse Clerk/Treasurer; Matt Hammer, Colfax City Administrator/Public Works Director
 - Snake River Dams Removal Transportation Study Update – Jim Mahugh, Washington State Department of Transportation Study Lead
 - f. **Economic Development Advocacy**
 - Local Government Coalition – Kris Carlson, Port State Lobbyist
 - Port 2026-2030 Strategic Plan
3. **Future Meeting Topics and Closing**

The next EDIM is tentatively scheduled for **January 14, 2026**. Port staff will keep EDIM participants informed if there are any changes to the meeting format.



Washington SBDC Partnership City Activity & Impact Report

County: Whitman

Quarter Total Date Range: 7.1.25...9.30.25

Year to Date Range: 7.1.25...9.30.25

Data Elements	Quarter Total	Year to Date
CASE TOTALS (Clients)		
Number of Clients Counseled	21	46
Number of New Clients	11	30
Company Status		
Pre-venture/Nascent	5	13
Startups	10	15
In Business	8	22
CASE TOTALS (Total Hours)		
All Prep + Contact Client Hours	62	224
New Client Hours	38	156
CASE TOTALS (economic impacts)		
Capital Infusion	\$137,390	\$280,865
Number Businesses Created	3	7
Jobs Created	6	12
Change in Sales	\$195,071	\$195,071
CASE TOTALS (economic indicators)		
Jobs Saved/Retained	29	97
Gross Revenue of Counseled Clients	\$2,225,871	\$5,459,871
DEMOGRAPHICS (Type of Business, # of Clients)		
Accommodation and Food Services	4	11
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	0	2
Arts and Entertainment	0	1
Construction	1	3
Educational Services	1	1
Finance and Insurance	0	0
Healthcare and Social Assistance	3	5
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0	0
Manufacturing	0	0
Professional/Technical Services	6	11
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	0	0
Research and Development	0	0
Retail	1	5
Service	4	6
Technology Services	0	0
Transportation and Warehousing	0	0

Wholesale	1	1
No Response	0	0
DEMOGRAPHICS (Business Ownership Gender)		
Male	7	16
Female	12	22
Male/Female	1	6
No Response	1	2
DEMOGRAPHICS (Ethnic Background - Race)		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	1	3
Black or African American	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	2	3
White	14	32
No Response	4	6
DEMOGRAPHICS (Ethnicity)		
Hispanic	1	4
Non-Hispanic	15	34
No Response	5	8
DEMOGRAPHICS (Business Ownership Vet. Status)		
Veteran	0	0
Service-Disabled Veteran	1	1
Non-veteran	17	35
No Response	3	10
COUNSELING ACTIVITY (Areas of Counseling, # of Sessions)		
Business Accounting/Budget	0	1
Business Plan	4	7
Buy/Sell Business	2	3
Cash Flow Management	2	2
Financing/Capital	3	5
Human Resources/Employee Mg't	0	2
International Trade	0	1
Managing a Business	3	19
Marketing/Sales	5	14
Start-up Assistance	13	26
No Response	0	0
Other	21	46

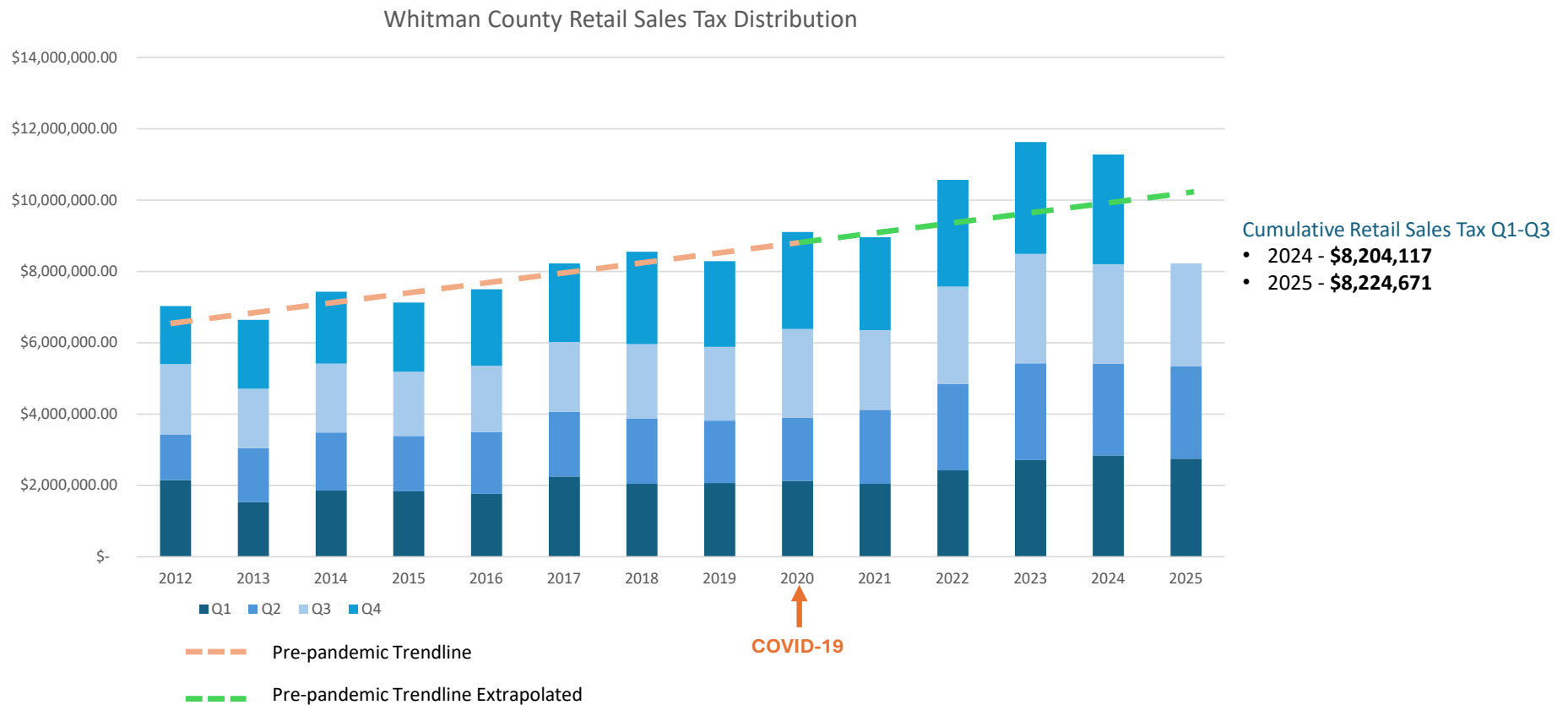
*All economic impacts are reported by the client and attributed to the assistance of their SBDC advisor.
The Washington SBDC network, hosted by Washington State University, is an accredited member of America's SBDC.
Funded in part through a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA),
institutions of higher education, economic development organizations and other public and private funding partners.*

Essential Questions To Drive Insight

Category	Sample Questions
Looking Ahead	Goals for next year, Hiring plans, Expansion ideas
Customer Feedback	What are people saying? Reading reviews online, Feedback methods
Performance & Challenges	Biggest success, Recent challenges, Barriers to growth
Technology & Innovation	How are you using AI? Automation opportunities, Helpful tools
Community & Support	Local program support, Networking interest

Whitman County Retail Sales Tax Distribution

Retail sales tax distributions continue to stabilize at pre-pandemic levels while still growing.



Business Leads

Project Completed or Permit Phase		New or Re-Activated Business Lead	Still Active Business Lead	Business Lead Cold or on Hold	Business Lead Closed
Date	Lead Source	Type of Business	Criteria	Benefits	Status
Dec-24	DOC	Project Family Formula	25,000-50,000 sqft; 1-5 acres, high electricity and natural gas capacity, good ventilation	FTE: 20-50 Capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Dec-24	Private	Project Beverage Production	1 million gal/day minimum, 4.8 MW minimum, 11.5 acres minimum	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Jan-25	DOC	Project Twilight	200-300 MW; reginery site or adjacent to refinery		No sites meet preferred criteria.
Jan-25	DOC	Project Saline Clean Tech	30,000 square ft. manufacturing / warehouse space for lease; 1500 gallons / day, 300kW peak demand	FTE: 50. Capital investment: \$750,000	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Jan-25	DOC	Project Mjolnir Fusion Energy Facility	542M gallons/year; 50-75MW	FTE: 200 Capital Investment: \$637M	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Feb-25	DOC	Project Traction Manufacturing	200-250 acres, 30MW scalable to 100MW, existing rail access	FTE: 600-2200, with up to 1000 construction jobs. Capital Investment: \$500M	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Mar-25	DOC	Project Tectonix ICT / Advanced Manufacturing	150,000 sq ft including 100,000 sq ft clean room; 10,000KVA	FTE: 100	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Mar-25	DOC	Project Timberline	SAF Facility: 23 acres, 10MW; Methanol Facility: 6 acres, 4MW; proximity to biomass sources, ports, refineries	FTE: 25-55 Capital Investment: \$100-150M	No sites meet preferred criteria.
April-25	DOC	Project Horizon	80+ acres, 10-14MW with 55-60MW capacity at full buildout, 5M gallons / day, natural gas	FTE: 200	No sites meet preferred criteria.
May-25	DOC	Project Road Candy Asphalt Distribution Services	15-40 acres zoned heavy industrial with rail access, dual access for trucking, natural gas, potable water, electrical, and sewer	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
May-25	DOC	Project Tangerine Textile Recycling	5 acres minimum; prioritizing former pulp and paper mills from forest industry; 500,000 gallons/day; 400kWh/month	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
May-25	DOC	Project Elevate Sustainable Aviation Fuel Facility	220MW with minimum 70% renewable energy; minimum 288,000 gallons/day; 20-30 acres zoned industrial with proximity to rail and highways	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Aug-25	DOC	Project Powder Path Nutrition Food Expansion	50,000-100,000 square foot facility with temperature-sensitive capabilities, easy logistics access, and operational flexibility	FTE / capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Sep-25	DOC	Project NOVA Manufacturing	250,000 square feet, 10-20 acres, 6M kWh power / year and 50,000 tons water / year	FTE: 100 Capital investment: \$40-50M	Site submitted to Department of Commerce (DOC).

Chamber of Commerce

Our mission is to promote business growth & development in Tekoa and to serve as a focal point for community information.

See our website for full a membership list and Facebook for current events sponsored by the Chamber and it's members.

New Resident packets available at City Hall.
Stay local for your service & shopping needs.

Medical

Tekoa Clinic offers appointments as part of the Whitman Hospital & Medical Center in Colfax.

Tekoa Pharmacy fills prescriptions, offers OTC medicines, provides Rx mail-back envelopes, and stocks many essentials and gifts.

Tekoa Care Center is an assisted living facility.

Tekoa Ambulance volunteer first responder agency.



Town Amenities

Airport – located east of town

Bank – Banner Bank

Food – a market, restaurants, coffee shops

Food Pantry – monthly free food distribution at City Hall

Gas Pumps – by City Hall

Golf Course – 9 hole course

Internet – multiple carriers

Museum – full of Tekoa history

Palouse to Cascades Trail – trailhead at Tekoa Trestle

Shopping – hardware, hair salon, antiques, motorsports

City of Tekoa

- Manages water, sewer and garbage services and billing
- City Council meetings open to all
- Building inspector & Permits
- Public Restroom downtown
- Goldenrod Cemetery
- Collection sites for yard waste & cardboard

Welcome to Tekoa

Small Town Living

Family Guide

There is plenty to enjoy with your family in Tekoa, WA. It is a vibrant town with schools, amenities, businesses and entertainment with many community & youth activities.



Tekoa Chamber of Commerce

exploretekoa.com 

City of Tekoa

tekoawa.com

HEALTHY Tekoa Coalition

healthytekoa.org  

Tekoa School District

tekoasd.org 



TEKOA
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE



HEALTHY | TEKOA
COALITION

Tekoa School District

With pride, commitment, and caring the Tekoa School District will work in partnership with students, parents, and community to provide our youth with knowledge and skills so they may reach their educational potential.

Our schools serve students from Preschool through Grade 12. Grades PS-5 are in the Grade School. Grades 6-12 are in the High School.

We offer FFA and FCCLA club activities for grades 6-12. Our co-op with Rosalia School District offers many sports for youth in grades 6-12.

Please see our website for the most up to date information.



Family Focused

Tekoa Library offers kids, teen and adult programs.

Tekoa Parks maintains several green spaces & the pool.

Tekoa Rosalia Athletic Club (TRAC) offers several sports for youth 4-14yr.

Tekoa 4-H Clover Club projects in arts, small animals & livestock for youth.

The Empire Theatre has family movies, concerts & other events and acts.



Community Events

Join your neighbors at these family fun events:

- Homecoming Bonfire
- Small Business Saturday
- Egg/Bunny Hunt
- School Play
- Slippery Gulch Celebration
- Yard Sale Day
- National Night Out



Spiritual

Tekoa Community Church

Sunday service at 10 AM

Youth Group Tues 5:45 PM

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

Sunday service at 10 AM

Celebrate Recovery

Wednesdays 6 PM (dinner served)

Community Church



HEALTHY Tekoa Coalition

We are a volunteer and community led youth substance use prevention and mental health promotion coalition.

Our mission is to promote positive, healthy choices in Tekoa youth by working together to reduce substance abuse.

We do this with prevention education for youth, parents and community; promote positive community behaviors around Tekoa; and free family friendly events throughout the year.

