



Whitman County Economic Development Informational Meeting

May 13, 2026
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. **2026 Economic Development Plan**
 - a. **Small Business Development**
 - New Businesses in Whitman County
 - Washington Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Report **(Exhibit 1)**

 - b. **Business Recruitment, Marketing & Advertising**
 - Opportunity Zone Applications **(Exhibit 2)**
 - Update on Recent and/or New Business Leads **(Exhibit 3)**

 - c. **Economic Profiling**
 - Select Economic Indicators – Dr. Patrick Jones, EWU Institute of Public Policy and Economic Analysis

 - d. **Sites & Infrastructure**
 - Planned Road Projects & Maintenance – Dean Cornelison, Whitman County

 - e. **Economic Development Advocacy**
 - Rural Washington Women's Civic Leadership Program – Christine Gilmore, Rural Development Initiatives **(Exhibit 4)**

3. **Future Meeting Topics and Closing**

The next EDIM is scheduled for **July 22, 2026**. Port staff will keep EDIM participants informed if there are any changes to the meeting format.



Washington SBDC & ADO Partnership
County Activity & Impact Report

County: Whitman

Quarter Total Date Range: 1.1.26...3.31.26

Year to Date Range: 1.1.26...3.31.26

Data Elements	Quarter Total	Year to Date
CASE TOTALS (Clients)		
Number of Clients Counseled	15	15
Number of New Clients	7	7
Company Status		
Pre-venture/Nascent	2	2
Startups	6	6
In Business	7	7
CASE TOTALS (Total Hours)		
All Prep + Contact Client Hours	71	71
New Client Hours	40	40
CASE TOTALS (economic impacts)		
Capital Infusion	\$29,150	\$29,150
Number Businesses Created	3	3
Jobs Created	8	8
Change in Sales	\$272,793	\$272,793
CASE TOTALS (economic indicators)		
Jobs Saved/Retained	40	40
Gross Revenue of Counseled Clients	\$357,705	\$357,705
DEMOGRAPHICS (Type of Business, # of Clients)		
Accommodation and Food Services	2	2
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	1	1
Arts and Entertainment	1	1
Construction	1	1
Educational Services	3	3
Finance and Insurance	0	0
Healthcare and Social Assistance	0	0
Management of Companies and Enterprises	0	0
Manufacturing	2	2
Professional/Technical Services	1	1
Real Estate, Rental and Leasing	0	0
Retail	3	3
Service	0	0
Transportation and Warehousing	1	1
Wholesale	0	0
No Response	0	0

DEMOGRAPHICS (Business Ownership Gender)		
Male	7	7
Female	6	6
Male/Female	2	2
No Response	0	0
DEMOGRAPHICS (Ethnic Background - Race)		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0	0
Asian	0	0
Black or African American	0	0
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0
Multiracial	0	0
White	10	10
No Response	4	4
DEMOGRAPHICS (Ethnicity)		
Hispanic	2	2
Non-Hispanic	11	11
No Response	2	2
DEMOGRAPHICS (Business Ownership Vet. Status)		
Veteran	1	1
Service-Disabled Veteran	0	0
Non-veteran	13	13
No Response	1	1
COUNSELING ACTIVITY (Areas of Counseling, # of Sessions)		
Artificial Intelligence (A.I.)	1	1
Business Accounting/Budget	0	0
Business Plan	1	1
Buy/Sell Business	0	0
Cash Flow Management	2	2
eCommerce	0	0
Financing/Capital	6	6
Government Contracting	0	0
Human Resources/Employee Mg't	0	0
International Trade	0	0
Managing a Business	4	4
Marketing/Sales	6	6
Start-up Assistance	7	7
No Response	0	0
Other	1	1

*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.*

Opportunity Zones

WHAT ARE OPPORTUNITY ZONES?

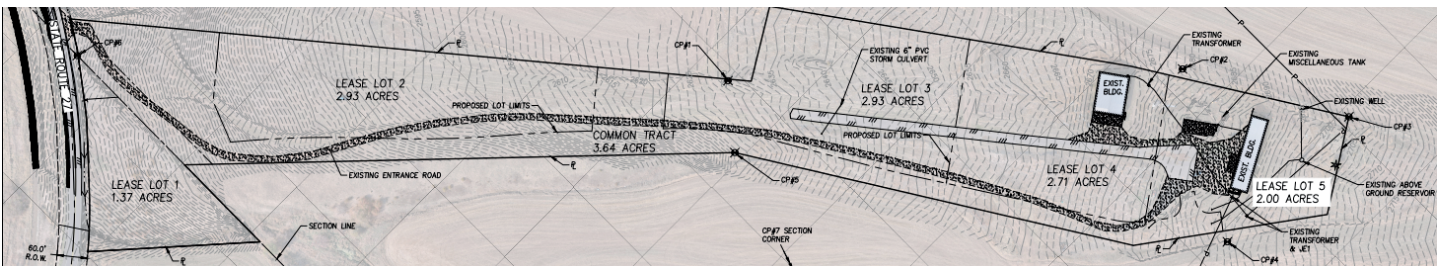
Opportunity Zones (OZs) are a federal tax incentive program providing federal capital gains tax benefits to investors in designated census tracts. They have shown to spark private investment in low-income communities across the country.

Washington currently has 139 designated OZs across 36 counties. With the new program, this will narrow to 98 OZs. At least 24 of the zones must be in rural communities. New designations will run 2028 to 2038.

The Port is applying to designate two tracts in Whitman County:

- **NORTHERN WHITMAN COUNTY** (53075000900): This tract includes the Port's Tekoa Mountain Business Park and other developable land.
- **EASTERN PULLMAN** (53075000602): This tract runs along State Route 270 and includes the Port's Pullman Industrial Park, the Pullman-Moscow Regional Airport, and other developable land.

Designation applications are due May 28, 2026.



Top: Map of Tekoa Mountain Business Park. Bottom Left: Map of Whitman County. Yellow shaded portions of map indicate Opportunity Zone eligible census tracts. Bottom Right: Aerial image of Pullman Industrial Park.



**Port of
Whitman
County**

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
May-25	COM	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	COM	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	COM	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	COM	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	COM	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	Commerce submitted site to client.
Dec-25	COM	Project Atlas	500,000-650,000 square feet, 24MW peak energy. Location well-served by transportation and urban amenities.	FTE: 550 Capital investment: \$229M	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Dec-25	COM	Project EquipmentShare	5-8 acres industrial property with equipment rental / sales / service permitted use	FTE: 10-50 Capital investment: \$3M+	Port staff submitted site to client.
Dec-25	COM	Project ClimateForge	50-80 acres need; 550,000-700,000 sq. ft. advanced manufacturing campus	FTE: 1000 Capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Dec-25	COM	ProjectAlloyworks	Proposed facility will be approximately 120,000 sq. ft. and will house extrusion operations, heat treatment, finishing, and quality-testing functions. Need ability to support high-power metal-processing operations, with high-capacity electrical service and gas supply.	FTE: 150-200 Capital investment: Unknown	No sites meet preferred criteria.
Apr-26	COM	Project Ellie	75,000 sq ft with airport access	FTE: 628 Capital Investment: \$216M	Port staff submitted site to Commerce.

Rural Civic Engagement Project

Weaving People, Places and Priorities

This free, 5-session training focuses on understanding power dynamics, increasing support for community wide issues, and creating a statewide network of rural women.



Dates*

- Aug 26: 10am - 12pm
- Sept 2: 10am - 12pm
- Sept 16: 10am - 12pm
- Sept 30 - Oct 1: in person visit to the state capitol
- Oct 14: 10am - 12pm

**Dates subject to change*

For More Information

rdiinc.org/rural-civic-engagement-project

Kendra Schaffer | kschaffer@rdiinc.org



Reserve
Your Spot
Today!



EXHIBIT 4

