



PORT OF WALLA WALLA

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

FOR

WALLA WALLA COUNTY

YEAR 2021

Port of Walla Walla  
310 A Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 525-3100  
[www.portwallawalla.com](http://www.portwallawalla.com)

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# PORT OF WALLA WALLA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN

## **Purpose Statement**

To enhance the economic health of Walla Walla County through the development and execution of this economic development plan (hereinafter referred to as the “Plan”). The desired outcome of the Plan is to retain and create living-wage jobs and foster private sector capital investment to enhance the economic health of families in Walla Walla County, including families living below the poverty line. The Plan shall be implemented countywide and for the benefit of all communities within the county. The Plan is a guide to the Port’s economic development efforts and not a mandate for a specific implementation.

## **COVID-19 Pandemic**

The economic development environment has undergone some major significant changes, and the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic will be immense. The economic prosperity that Walla Walla County has experienced over the past decades can no longer be assumed. Once the COVID-19 social distancing measures are removed and businesses can reopen, economic development will be more important than ever to make Walla Walla County’s economic base even more resilient to structural change and external factors.

## **Core Elements of Work**

1. Small Business Development
2. Existing Business Retention/Expansion
3. Business Recruitment, Marketing & Advertising
4. Site and Infrastructure Development
5. Economic Profiling
6. Economic Development Advocacy

❖ Elements of work are not listed in any order of importance. Each element is important in this Plan.

### **1. Small Business Development**

- 1.1. Promote the utilization of the Walla Walla WSU Small Business Development Center (SBDC) located at Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce office in downtown Walla Walla.
- 1.2. Continue to contribute funding and support to SBDC annual operational costs for 2021.
- 1.3. Continue to contribute funding and support to the Walla Walla Micro-Business Assistance Program.
- 1.4. Maintain the Port’s “Small Business Tools” website for businesses that want web-based information and support. <https://www.resources4business.info/wallawalla>
- 1.5. Consider constructing additional buildings at the Walla Walla Regional Airport and other locations for new and expanding businesses.
- 1.6. Provide inventory and access to reasonably priced production space for new and expanding businesses.
- 1.7. Continue to support the development and expansion of the community’s entrepreneurship programs, events, and space.

- 1.8. Work with Community Council and other local agencies in creating an entrepreneurial mindset and ecosystem to foster related skills in students (K–16) through mentorships, internships, and other opportunities that include access to resources that foster a culture of innovation.
- 1.9. Work with local colleges in expanding the incubator activities to include STEM-oriented businesses and value-added agriculture.

**Benchmarks for Small Business Development**

- 1.BM.1 Number of clients utilizing the center;
- 1.BM.2 Client evaluations of business assistance counseling and workshops;
- 1.BM.3 Number of new business start-ups and the number of jobs created or retained;
- 1.BM.4 Amount of private investment, including equity, banks, or other loan packages;
- 1.BM.5 Minority population utilization of center;
- 1.BM.6 Specific examples of business success stories;
- 1.BM.7 Track the number of hits to the Port’s Walla Walla Small Business Tools website; and
- 1.BM.8 Track the number of businesses that utilized the Walla Walla Micro-Business Assistance Program.

**2. Existing Business Retention & Expansion**

- 2.1. Continue to provide Port staff services to ensure the rapid and efficient delivery of "authorized grants" (WA Department of Commerce, CARES Act Funds, others) for local businesses impacted by COVID-19.
- 2.2. Establish an Economic Recovery Task Force to advise on strategies to help stabilize and recover the economy. The task force should consist of leaders from business, education, healthcare, nonprofits, labor, and government.
- 2.3. Partner with local providers (Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce and others) on virtual resources, toolkits, webinars, and business counseling for local businesses seeking information on dealing with the economic fallout from the pandemic.
- 2.4. Support business retention and expansion projects that provide a target wage of approximately \$16.43 per hour plus benefits (20% higher than the minimum wage established by Initiative 1433).
- 2.5. Contact the largest employers annually (manufacturing/non-retail service related) in Walla Walla County to express appreciation for their business and obtain information related to their future business needs and identify issues that impede their business growth. Continue to meet annually with some of the smaller business employers that have shown steady employment and private capital investment growth.
- 2.6. Continue to work with Packaging Corporation of America (formerly Boise Paper), Old Dominion Freight Lines, Cascade Natural Gas, Ingeniux Corporation, Duravant (Key Technology) Union Pacific Railroad, Northwest Wine Services, Refresco, Simplot, and other businesses on their proposed expansion plans.
- 2.7. Continue to work with the other local businesses in retaining manufacturing-related jobs in Walla Walla County.
- 2.8. Work with Packaging Corporation of America (formerly Boise Paper), Tyson Fresh Meats, Inc., and Gas Transmission Northwest - Station 8 (Wallula) on their carbon emission levels.

- 2.9. Work with Benton Clean Air Agency, Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE), and Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding the federal regulatory limit for ozone and its potential impacts it could have on the western portion of Walla Walla County.
- 2.10. Continue to work with the Washington State Penitentiary Task Force on retaining correction jobs and explore future expansion opportunities at the Washington State Penitentiary.
- 2.11. Continue to work with the local Veterans Administration (VA) and congressional delegation on VA employment opportunities.
- 2.12. Work with other technology-based businesses, similar to the Ingeniux Corporation, on expanding Walla Walla's technology-based employment.
- 2.13. Work with local health care providers on retaining and expanding health care & social assistance jobs with an emphasis on exploring growth opportunities.
- 2.14. Profile local businesses at the bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.
- 2.15. Provide existing business assistance through the Small Business Development Center, Port staff, and the Port's Walla Walla Small Business Tools website.
- 2.16. Support "Buy Local" initiatives.
- 2.17. Work with the Washington State Department of Commerce in disseminating information on the Opportunity Zone Tax incentives.
- 2.18. Continue to work with the Port of Moses Lake on disseminating information on Foreign Trade Zone #203 and its potential cost savings to Walla Walla County businesses.

**Benchmarks for Existing Business Retention & Expansion**

- 2.BM.1 A number of businesses requesting assistance.
- 2.BM.2 A number of businesses visited, assisted, and retained.
- 2.BM.3 A number of local businesses expanding operations.
- 2.BM.4 A number of new jobs created or retained.

**3. Business Recruitment, Marketing & Advertising**

- 3.1. Continue to work with representatives of the business recruitment list in accomplishing their proposed economic development projects.
- 3.2. Utilize the Washington State Department of Commerce and other business recruitment sources in obtaining business leads that are appropriate for Walla Walla County.
- 3.3. The global COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the demand for more data centers and cloud storage as companies and workers transitioned to working remotely. Telecommuting will likely be more widely embraced as employers and employees become more comfortable with working from home and virtual meetings more prevalent as executives and managers recognize that they can reduce travel and still conduct business. The western portion of Walla Walla County is well-positioned to benefit from the increase in demand for cloud storage and data.
- 3.4. Market to urban-based software/technology businesses that could expand to Walla Walla in creating a software business cluster.
- 3.5. Maintain "Existing Inventory List" of ready to go industrial and service-related buildings and land in Walla Walla County (both public & private).
- 3.6. Continue to explore opportunities in the Value-Added Agriculture sector.

- 3.7. Continue to input and maintain available industrial buildings and sites in the following web-based real estate sites: Area Development – Fast Facility - [www.fastfacility.com](http://www.fastfacility.com); CoStar LoopNet -[www.costar.com](http://www.costar.com); Washington Zoom Prospector - [www.zoomprospector.com](http://www.zoomprospector.com).
- 3.8. Update and maintain Port’s web page at [www.portwallawalla.com](http://www.portwallawalla.com) Develop a more interactive website including the use of video to showcase buildings and properties.
- 3.9. Develop and disseminate marketing materials highlighting the Wallula Gap Business Park’s infrastructure (i.e. water systems, electrical, natural gas, adjacent labor force, and transportation) to site selectors that represent large industrial manufacturing businesses.
- 3.10. Continue communication and correspondences with the National Site Selectors on specific available industrial sites and buildings in Walla Walla County.
- 3.11. Continue marketing efforts of available private and public properties.
- 3.12. Attend a limited number of trade shows and industry conferences in emerging growth sectors primarily to stay informed about industry trends and to develop industry network contacts.
- 3.13. Market the Burbank Business Park to selective retail developers for development.
- 3.14. Update and prepare promotional brochures on facilities, land, and the community.
- 3.15. Promote the SEA-TECH (Southeast Area Technical Skills Center) in preparing students for post-secondary education and entry into high-skill, high-demand careers, and employment.
- 3.16. Advocate for the expansion of STEM educational opportunities for all students, kindergarten through postsecondary, and facilitate partnerships between regional educational institutions and industry partners to support the development of additional STEM curricular opportunities.
- 3.17. Support an entrepreneurial ecosystem that fosters a culture of innovation.
- 3.18. Use internet search engines and RSS (Really Simple Syndication) feeds to obtain business leads appropriate for Walla Walla County. Strengthen the use of RSS feeds in attaining economic development opportunities.
- 3.19. Work with the City of Waitsburg and the Waitsburg Commercial Club on the continued recruitment and development of the Waitsburg Business Park.
- 3.20. Continue to explore clean energy and renewable energy projects for Walla Walla County.
- 3.21. Maintain the Port’s capacity for "build-to-suit" opportunities.
- 3.22. Utilize social media applications for business recruitment, marketing, and advertising.

**Benchmarks for Business Recruitment, Marketing & Advertising**

- 3.BM.1 A number of qualified business leads obtained.
- 3.BM.2 A number of qualified business visitations.
- 3.BM.3 A number of businesses located in the County as a result of business recruitment.
- 3.BM.4 A number of jobs created, the number of new tax dollars generated, and the amount of private capital investment.
- 3.BM.5 Track the number of website hits on Port information websites.

**4. Site & Infrastructure Development**

- 4.1. Advocate for funding for public infrastructure projects in Walla Walla County.
- 4.2. Identify and secure suitable sites and/or buildings for development.
- 4.3. Work to ready sites and/or buildings for development (acquisition, zoning, water, sewer, communications, roads).

- 4.4. Work to ensure municipal water and sewer treatment facilities have excess capacity.
- 4.5. Work to improve and maintain multi-modal transportation options (roads, rail, fiber, waterways, air, bicycle, and transit).
- 4.6. Continue to work to improve internet infrastructure throughout Walla Walla County.
- 4.7. Continue to improve the aesthetic image of the Walla Walla Regional Airport.
- 4.8. Promote public investment in maintaining and expanding existing infrastructure.
- 4.9. Secure alternative funding sources (grants and/or loans) for public infrastructure improvements.

### **Specific Site & Infrastructure Goals**

- 4.10. Continue to work diligently on protecting the Columbia-Snake river system. The Columbia-Snake river system provides abundant, reliable and renewal hydroelectric power, flood control, agriculture irrigation, recreation, wildlife habitat, and the most cost-effective and greenest form of transportation today, river barging. Any negative impacts on the Columbia-Snake river system would significantly damage the Pacific Northwest economy and especially the Walla Walla Valley.
- 4.11. Retain and expand commercial air service in Walla Walla. Work with the commercial air travel coalition to ensure optimal commercial air service.
- 4.12. US Highway 12 Four Laning - Phase 7 - Continue to coordinate with WSDOT and the US Highway 12 Coalition on the construction of Phase 7 of US Highway 12. Estimated Total Project Cost \$165M.
- 4.13. US Highway 12 Four Laning - Phase 8 - Continue to coordinate with WSDOT and the US Highway 12 Coalition on the design, environmental, and right-of-way acquisitions of Phase 8 of US Highway 12. Estimated cost \$34M.
- 4.14. US Highway 12 Four Laning - Phase 8 - Secure State and/or Federal funding for Phase 8 of US Highway 12. Estimated Total Project Cost \$186M.
- 4.15. Continue to work with WSDOT, City of Walla Walla, and County of Walla Walla on the US Highway 12 at the Clinton Intersection @ US Highway 12. Estimated cost \$30-40M.
- 4.16. Continue to coordinate with WSDOT and the City of Walla Walla on the design and construction of 9<sup>th</sup> and Plaza Way intersections. Estimated cost \$3.9M
- 4.17. Continue to participate and fund the Mill Creek Channel Rehabilitation Project.
- 4.18. Secure funding for the infrastructure improvements to all of the Port's Industrial/Business Parks.
- 4.19. Support local agencies in securing funding for infrastructure improvements.
- 4.20. Support local educational institutions' educational programs and facility development. Educational attainment is critical to developing a strong labor force that can innovate and generate new economic opportunities locally and attract employers to the region. An educated labor force can sustain living wage jobs, generate returns for businesses, and contribute to a resilient community.
- 4.21. Manage the Economic Development Sales Tax Fund with the County to encourage new job creation opportunities and private capital investment and support legislation that expands and/or continues the program.
- 4.22. Continue to participate and work with the local government jurisdictions and Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO).
- 4.23. Work with our economic partners in securing funds for the "Regional Signage Program".

- 4.24. Continue to work with the City of Walla Walla and Walla Walla Community College on the Innovation Partnership Zone (IPZ) projects.
- 4.25. Continue discussion involving a partnership/development with Walla Walla University on creating an Innovation and Incubator Campus (ICC) adjacent to the university in the City of College Place.
- 4.26. Consider opportunities to acquire business park locations in the City of College Place, City of Prescott, Touchet, and Lowden, if supported and feasible.
- 4.27. Retain and promote rail infrastructure investments in Walla Walla County.
- 4.28. Continue to support the development of “community solar projects” in Walla Walla County.
- 4.29. Support Fort Walla Walla Museum’s effort in securing funds for the Museums Services and Facilities Enhancement Project.
- 4.30. Continue participation and support for the Walla Walla Watershed Management Partnership Board planning activities.
- 4.31. Work on securing funding for the Warehouse District Concept (13th/Dell Ave neighborhood).
- 4.32. Support remediation, land use planning, and redevelopment of the Tausick Way landfill site.
- 4.33. Support additional parking improvements in downtown districts located in incorporated cities in Walla Walla County, if initiated and supported by the local city jurisdiction.
- 4.34. Support Walla Walla Community College on its approved capital project to construct a new S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, and math) building on the WWCC campus.

## **Local Specific Site & Infrastructure Projects**

### **Port of Walla Walla 2021 Projects**

❖ Walla Walla Regional Airport – CARES Fund Projects	\$18M
❖ Wallula Gap Business Park & Dodd Road – Complete Water Improvements	\$2.0M
❖ Burbank Business Park - Lift Station No. 2, Sewer & Grading - West of 5 <sup>th</sup>	\$1.2M
❖ Avery Business Park – Site Plan Development	\$50K
❖ Paine Building Remodel	\$600K

### **City of Walla Walla 2021 Projects**

❖ Rose & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Intersection Bridge Replacement Project	\$5.5M
❖ SR125 – Plaza Way Intersection Improvement Project (WSDOT Partnership)	\$5.4M
❖ Park Street IRRP/TBD Project	\$4.2M
❖ Penrose & Alvarado IRRP Project (Formally a 2020 Project)	\$1.0M
❖ Sumach & Sturm Water Main Installation Project	\$650K
❖ Sewer Main Lining Project	\$1.2M
❖ Wastewater Treatment Plant UV Replacement Expansion (continuation from 2020)	\$2.0M
❖ Heritage Park – Central Plaza Construction (2021-2022)	\$2.5M

### **City of College Place 2021 Projects**

❖ Lions Park Renovation (2021-2022):	\$2.5M
❖ SE Meadowbrook Grind & Overlay Project (TIB Grant Funded):	\$313k
❖ Southwest College Place Wastewater Trunk Line and Lift Station:	\$7.5M
❖ Well #6 relocation – Maple/Whitman (2021-2022):	\$3.1M
❖ Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements (Phase 1) (2021-2023):	\$20M

### **Walla Walla County 2021 Projects**

❖ Middle Waitsburg Road	\$2.4M
❖ Mill Creek Road MP 1.1 to MP 3.96	\$3.2M
❖ Drumheller Bridge Rehabilitation	\$700K
❖ Design phase of Mill Creek GI Study	\$700K
❖ Design phase of several Flood Recovery projects	\$500K

### **City of Waitsburg 2021 Projects**

❖ Flood control improvements to the City's dikes and levees	\$100K
❖ Millrace Grade Improvement Project	\$680K
❖ Well Field Emergency Generator Installation:	\$51K

### **City of Prescott 2021 Projects**

❖ Various public infrastructure (water, roads, stormwater)	\$200K
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### **Benchmarks for Site & Infrastructure Development**

4.BM.1 Accomplish as many above listed infrastructure projects as possible.



## **5. Economic Profiling**

- 5.1. Maintain a comprehensive Economic Profile by assembling, analyzing, and publishing community data useful to business and industry.
  - Demographics
  - Labor Market Conditions
  - Largest Employer List
  - Largest Taxpayer List
  - Taxes and Incentives
  - Tourism Performance Indicators
  - Inventory of available lands and buildings
  - Finance Programs
- 5.2. Continue to maintain and promote the Walla Walla Trends website [www.wallawallatrends.com](http://www.wallawallatrends.com)
- 5.3. Work with Eastern Washington University on the Walla Walla Trends quarterly newsletter.
- 5.4. Ensure updated economic data is available on the Port's website [www.portwallawalla.com](http://www.portwallawalla.com).
- 5.5. Maintain other social media applications.
- 5.6. Continue hosting the Economic Development Informational Meetings and posting the information on the Port's website.

### **Benchmarks for Economic Profiling**

- 5.BM.1 Utilization of information by community policymakers and by existing businesses.
- 5.BM.2 Relevant information to prospective businesses and Growth Management Planning.

## **6. Economic Development Advocacy**

- 6.1. Develop and communicate positions on economic development issues important to the economic health of the region.
- 6.2. Develop a proactive profile by communicating economic development efforts and economic development success stories.
- 6.3. Work with local government agencies to advocate sound public policies on land use development & regulations, transportation, growth management, and the cost of doing business.
- 6.4. Educational attainment is an important element in attracting living wage jobs to the area. Support the local educational institutions on their educational programs and facility development.
- 6.5. Support legislation to establish a permanent funding source of funds for the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) at a level that provides adequate funding assistance to meet rural infrastructure needs.
- 6.6. Support legislation to re-establish and qualify Walla Walla County for the Rural County Sale & Use Tax Deferral Program
- 6.7. Workforce Development - Collaborate with local workforce development entities to respond to skills gaps that limit business expansion and growth and to meet changing industry and business needs.
- 6.8. Workforce Development - Draw upon the labor market resources and information available through the local workforce development system when engaged in business recruitment efforts.
- 6.9. Workforce Development - Collaborate with local workforce development entities to support industry skill panels or cluster-based industry activities to leverage available resources and increase the competitiveness of area employers.

- 6.10. Work with Downtown Walla Walla Foundation, Visit Walla Walla, and Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance on projects of common interest.
- 6.11. Work with the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce to advocate for the adoption of sound public policies that will lead to long-term sustainable economic development in our region.
- 6.12. Participate in local jurisdictions updates of their comprehensive plans and make sure the plans support proactive economic development policies.
- 6.13. Represent economic development interests before governmental bodies.
- 6.14. Review laws, rules, and regulations affecting economic development and business.
- 6.15. Promote state legislation to improve the state's business climate and investment in economic development efforts.
- 6.16. Maintain Walla Walla County's rural economic development designation and the Economic Development Sales Tax Fund retention option for economic development projects.
- 6.17. Participate in the Washington Economic Development Association, Washington Public Ports Association, and Pacific Northwest Waterways Association.
- 6.18. Continue Community Bus Tours of Port properties, community, and economic development projects.

**Benchmarks for Economic Development Advocacy**

- 6.BM.1 Favorable local and state policies affecting economic development.
- 6.BM.2 Public understanding and support for local economic development efforts.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ELEMENTS**

- Tourism is an important economic development initiative in Walla Walla County. Visit Walla Walla is recognized as the lead agency for tourism as they oversee the expenditures of hotel/motel tax receipts which are the primary funding source for tourism marketing.
- Downtown development/redevelopment is an important element of a broad-based economic development plan. The Downtown Walla Walla Foundation is recognized as the lead agency for downtown development in the City of Walla Walla. The cities of College Place, Prescott, and Waitsburg are primarily responsible for their respective downtown areas.
- The primary target of this Plan is in manufacturing and non-retail service-related jobs that pay a target wage of \$16.43 per hour plus benefits. Retail development and related retail business recruitment within incorporated cities are not a focus of this Plan, however, Port may assist local jurisdictions in their retail recruitment. Walla Walla County and the cities within the County are responsible for developing their own retail trade business recruitment strategies in their respective jurisdictions. The Port will assist the Burbank community in retail/commercial business enterprises as the Port owns real estate in the Burbank area zoned for such purposes.
- The underlying goal of the Plan is to enhance the economic health of families in Walla Walla County including families living below the poverty line.
- It is recognized that compatible and sustainable manufacturing and service-related businesses are important to county residents. Generally speaking, heavy industrial uses will be sited in the western portion of Walla Walla County. Light industrial and service-related businesses will be accommodated in more urban parts of the county.
- The goal of economic development is not population growth but to provide living-wage jobs for current residents of the county. However, population growth should be accommodated through careful planning and compliance with the State's Growth Management Act.
- Affordable housing and childcare services are vital to economic development in Walla Walla County.

## **COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION**

### **Bi-Monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings (EDIM)**

Elected officials, private sector businesses, public agencies, and all others interested in economic development meet bi-monthly to review the implementation of this Plan and to discuss current economic development issues.

### **As Needed Basis**

- Inform specific attendees at Economic Development Informational Meetings when company visitations are planned or emergency economic retention efforts are needed.
- Specific economic development task forces.
- Port provided presentations to county and city council meetings and/or to service clubs when requested.

## **DEFINITION OF ROLES**

### **Port of Walla Walla**

- The primary responsibility is for coordinating and executing this Plan and conducting the bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **County and Cities**

- Formulate and adopt economic policies within their jurisdictions to guide public investment.
- Provide guidance concerning the Port's implementation of this Plan.
- Invest in specific economic development infrastructure projects within its jurisdiction.
- Assist with site visitations, retention efforts, and targeted economic development initiatives.
- Provide technical assistance (GMA planning support).
- Support public policy decisions that promote economic development.
- Elected official and administrative staff participation in the bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.
- Participate in bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **Private Sector**

- Provide feedback concerning the Port's implementation of this Plan.
- Invest in specific identifiable economic development opportunities when appropriate.
- Serve as advocates for public policy decisions that promote economic development.
- Assist with site visitations, retention efforts, and targeted economic development initiatives.
- Utilize Team Walla Walla umbrella organization to secure private sector incentive packages.
- Participate in bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **Walla Walla Community College**

- The lead agency for workforce training and workforce training programs.
- Assist with business recruitment packaging related to workforce training programs.
- Participate in the bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **WorkSource Walla Walla**

A partnership of employment and training providers committed to ensuring a skilled and job-ready workforce.

- Provide labor force & labor market data in support of economic development and business recruitment efforts.
- Responsive to business and industry needs for employee recruitment and training.
- Partners in local initiatives that link employment services and resources to the community's needs.
- Participate in bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **Downtown Walla Walla Foundation**

- The lead agency for downtown development within the City of Walla Walla.
- Participate in bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **Visit Walla Walla**

- The lead agency for tourism development within the Walla Walla Valley.
- Participate in the bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce**

As an advocate for the business community of the Walla Walla Valley:

- Provide input concerning the Port's implementation of this Plan.
- Serve as advocates for public policy decisions that promote economic development.
- Assist with site visitations, retention efforts, and targeted economic development initiatives.
- Build a "community" within the business community.
- Pursue economic development strategies that supplement and complement the Port's mission.
- Pursue legislative and civic affairs issues related to doing business in the Walla Walla Valley.
- Participate in the bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.
- Fiscal agent for WSU Small Business Development Center.

### **Walla Walla Valley Wine Alliance**

- The lead organization for wine marketing and development in the Walla Walla Valley.
- A key advocate for wine tourism and air travel utilizing Walla Walla airport.
- Advocate for local, state, and federal public policy decisions that impact the Walla Walla Valley wine industry.
- The lead organization for numerous wine industry events in Walla Walla Valley.
- Participate in bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **Walla Walla County - School Districts (College Place School District, Columbia School District, Dixie School District, Prescott School District, Touchet School District, Waitsburg School District, and Walla Walla School District)**

- Provide updates at Economic Development Informational Meetings on school district projects.
- Participate in bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization and Sub-Regional Transportation Planning Organization (MPO/SRTPO)**

- Engage state, county, and city members, as well as interested parties and the public, in cooperative planning and decision-making on transportation issues.
- Prepare plans and programs that guide federal, state, county, and city investments into a multi-modal transportation network.
- Participate in bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **Community Council**

- Fosters a trusted gathering place where people engage in dialogue, inquiry, and advocacy to build a vibrant region for everyone.
- Provide guidance concerning the Port's implementation of this Plan.
- Participate in bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.

### **Commitment to Community (C2C)**

- C2C is recognized as an important community partner in working with the Port in developing economically healthy families and neighborhoods, which in turn supports successful economic development.
- C2C is recognized for its focus as a grassroots neighborhood organization that is agenda-free and based solely on relationship building. Its ultimate vision is simple: to have healthy neighborhoods where residents take ownership of their issues and become stewards of their neighborhoods.
- Participate in bi-monthly Economic Development Informational Meetings.