Where’s the Port of Columbia?
County-Wide Transportation Challenges

- Road Preservation and Maintenance
- City Street Funding
- Rural Public Transportation
- Walla Walla Columbia Rail Line
- Economic Development – Both industrial and tourism grown affect rural roads
1% tax limitation from Eyeman’s initiative 695 continues to reduce current expense monies available for cities and counties.

The County Road Department is most flush, but still struggles with preservation and maintenance funds.

City Street Funding – can access state funding for major arterials, has passed a local Transportation Benefit District. Still not enough.
Serves a huge need not only in our community, but in the entire region

Operate Van Pools to regional employment centers – VA, USACE Walla Walla District, Little Goose, Monumental, and Lower Granit Dams, Washington State Penitentiary, etc.

Multiple daily trips to Walla Walla for college students and medical appointments.

Strongly advocate for continued funding
City has passed a local Transportation Benefit District to raise funds for streets.

Columbia County Public Transit successfully increased local sales tax to fund public transit.

We have quadrupled our tax base in the last decade.

I don’t know what else we can do locally. We need help to maintain our systems.
- Donated to the Port by the UP in 1996
- Operated by Watco for 20+ years
- Embargoed due to needed bridge repairs
- Rail Bank Grant - Watco
- Gave us an opening

Columbia Walla Walla Rail Line
New Operating Agreement

Frontier Rail operating as the CWW

Bridge Repairs Complete

Grand Re-opening October 2017
Rock

Green Giant Seed

Almost No Wheat!
Issues

- Condition of Line
- High Cost of Rehabilitation
- Funding Based on Job Creation
- Class I Railroads are King
- Grain Shipping is Rapidly Changing – unit trains
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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Wind Energy Generation
Economic Impact

- Home to 3 wind projects with 320 total turbines.
- Hundreds of jobs during construction
- 70 permanent full-time, living-wage jobs with benefits
- New traffic on rural roads
Purchase wheat and alfalfa straw bales from regional farmers

Process straw into a pulp

Shipped to customers, such as Clearwater Paper or Boise Paper

11 years in the making from my first contact
150 million project
90+ full-time, living-wage jobs at the plant
15 jobs in Dayton at the office
Very narrow road – bridge changed to 1 lane for trucks

Has already has seasonal use by semis hauling grain to Lyons Ferry Barge Facility

Now adding semi truckloads of straw to the traffic flow
Lyons Ferry Marina and Lyons Ferry Park have brought seasonal visitors down this road (Hwy 261) for decades.

Designation of Palouse Falls as the Washington State Waterfall has increased tourism traffic tremendously.

Palouse Falls State Park needs more parking as well.
Thank you!