PUBLIC MEETING

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN
“WALK-ROLL-CONNECT THE PALOUSE”

- Planned Virtual Public Meetings (Phase I)
  - Oct 1 - Asotin and Whitman County Combined
  - Oct 7 - Columbia and Garfield County Combined

Shaun Darveshi- Transportation Engineer & Director, Palouse RTPO
shaun@palousertpo.org
THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING, WE REALLY APPRECIATE IT!!

NOTES/RULES FOR PARTICIPANTS:

• Please mute yourself if you’re not speaking.

• Please save your questions at the end of all presentations.

• Or, Please provide them in the Chatroom.

• Please raise your hand, if there’s anything pressing that you’d like to share immediately.

• And Finally, Please be respectful of all attendees, hosts, and co-hosts.
INTRODUCTION OF THE PALOUSE RTPO?

**Member Counties:**
- Aotin
- Columbia
- Garfield
- Whitman

**Transit Members:**
- PTBA - Aotin
- Garfield - Pomeroy
- COAST Transit Colfax
- Pullman Transit
- Columbia Transit

**Member Cities:**
- City of Aotin
- City of Clarkston
- City of Colfax
- City of Dayton
- City of Palouse
- City of Pomeroy
- City of Pullman
- City of Rosalia

**Member Ports:**
- Port of Columbia
- Port of Clarkston
- Port of Garfield
- Port of Whitman

**WSDOT Regions**
- WSDOT ER Region
- WSDOT SC Region

**Member Towns:**
- Town of Albion
- Town of Colton
- Town of Endicott
- Town of Farmington
- Town of Garfield
- Town of Lacrosse
- Town of Lamont
- Town of Malden
- Town of Oakesdale
- Town of St. John
- Town of Tekoa
- Town of Uniontown

(Aotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman County)

Palouse RTPO Region
WHAT DOES THE PALOUSE RTPD DO?

• WA State designated Regional Transportation Planning Council for the Four County Region
• Transportation planning for the four-county Region
  • Palouse 2040 Plan (2018)
  • Regional Public Transportation Plan (CPT-HSTP) (2018 & 2020)
  • Regional Freight Study (2017)
  • Safe Walk to School Plan (2014)
  • Palouse Driver Safety Campaign (In its fourth year, ongoing efforts)
  • Active Transportation Plan (2021)
• Provide TAP funding for the region
• Provide technical assistance to local governments
• Develop Six-year Regional TIP (Transportation Improvement Program) every two years
• Provide a regional coordination channel for State, Local agencies, Legislatures, public and federal agencies
WHAT IS ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN?

The Active Transportation Plan helps us learn from you and others to shape recommendations for policy decisions, investments and improvements. The plan will consider where we are now, where we want to go, and how we are going to get there in the coming years. It coordinates with your local city and county plans, so we invite you to get involved.

The Active Transportation means using an active modes of travel such as walking, biking, or skateboarding. Almost everyone uses active transportation at some point during a trip, whether walking to a bus stop, bicycling to work, or rolling home from school.
The recreational trail network across the Palouse is one of the most notable attractions of the southeastern Washington region. However, over the past five years, little action has been taken to improve these pathways or create connecting routes between trails. According to public surveys conducted in 2017, this is something that the Palouse community sees as an important area of focus.

This is the goal behind the **Palouse Regional Active Transportation Plan**.

**The Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)** has been serving the Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman counties since 1991.

With the help of government organizations, local agencies, and community members, the Palouse RTPO has been at work since September 2019 developing and building on the foundations of the Palouse Regional Active Transportation Plan.

**WHAT IS THIS PLAN FOR?**

The recreational trail network across the Palouse is one of the most notable attractions of the southeastern Washington region. However, over the past five years, little action has been taken to improve these pathways or create connecting routes between trails. According to public surveys conducted in 2017, this is something that the Palouse community sees as an important area of focus.

This is the goal behind the **Palouse Regional Active Transportation Plan**.

**Palouse Long-Term Investment Survey**

Transportation Projects Needing Improvement

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**WHO IS BEHIND THIS PLAN?**

The *Palouse Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO)* has been serving the Asotin, Columbia, Garfield, and Whitman counties since 1991.

With the help of government organizations, local agencies, and community members, the Palouse RTPO has been at work since September 2019 developing and building on the foundations of the Palouse Regional Active Transportation Plan.
Currently, the Palouse RTPO, along with the help of committees and organizations, have developed a list of over 110 trails on the Palouse.

Along with the names of these trails, the PRTPO has also gathered individual trail information, such as walking surface, available activities, and permit requirements.

Because of the heavy costs that are involved in constructing new recreational trails, the intent behind this plan is to make it possible for trail managers and local agencies to receive state and federal funding for proposed trail projects.

The plan will act as a detailed informational resource containing logistical, accessibility, and administrative data for each trail on the Palouse. This information will be translated to an online GIS platform so that trail users can easily plan hikes, bike rides, and walks.

Alongside addressing a technical advisory committee, the Palouse RTPO is currently operating the planning process with the help of two committees:

**STEERING COMMITTEE**
This planning group includes representatives of local government or government-funded organizations which have relevant relations to this plan.

**CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
This includes members of various advocacy groups on the Palouse who have had any suggestions or any recommendations for the Palouse trail network for years before.
BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW OF THE PLAN

( CONTINUE )

• **Key Activities of the Plan**
  
  • **Phase I**
    • Study the region and the existing Active Transportation System
    • Formalize committees to seek input- Steering and Citizen Advisory
    • Create Database for Active Transportation Modes
    • Convert data into the GIS layers for all active modes, and continue to update
    • First Public Outreach

  • **Phase II**
    • Collect Pedestrian Traffic counts data on top 25 regionwide trails
    • Dive into Network connectivity- gaps, land ownership, possible schematic and recommendations
    • Conduct two case studies- Environmental Justice, and Economic Impact Analysis
    • Second Public Outreach

  • **Phase III**
    • Complete report, and Launch Public GIS website
    • Ten-Year Visionary Follow up and Action plan
THE PATH TO PLAN ADOPTION

PHASE 1

1. Formation of committees:
   • Steering Committee (SC)
   • Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC)

2. Project timeline

3. Literature review

PHASE 2

1. Trail data translation
   - GIS platform

2. Further research
   - Economic impact
   - Environmental justice

PHASE 3

Finalized project report
• Complete datasets
• Final recommendations
• Project priorities

Plan approval & adoption. The public user domain will be launched.

Investigation of possible sources for project funding in collaboration with local agencies and trail managers.

The plan will be revisited every 5 years as its construction is underway. The PRTP will work with jurisdictional government organizations and landowners to promote the creation of proposed trails if any.

Within ten years (2021-2031), the project is planned to reach 25% of total completion.
COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS

- Monthly Citizen Advisory Committee Meetings
- Engage Identified Stakeholders through various meetings and Electronic Communications
- Quarterly Steering Committee Meetings
- Two Virtual Public Meetings
- 60 Days of Online Public Survey
- 60 Days of Online Interactive Map for Public Input
- Title VI and English proficiency outreach
PHASE II ACTIVITIES

- Consider first public input for improvements
- Collect pedestrian count data for top 25 trails
- Analyze connectivity gaps
- Analyze safety gaps
- Analyze new projects and needs
- Update the GIS website and project report
- Conduct final public outreach for final changes
From feedback from trail organizations, advocacy groups, committees, and the public, the Palouse RTPO will determine where opportunities for trail connection can be implemented.

Feedback connecting paths should be placed in order to make necessary link between trails or bike paths throughout the Palouse.

The analyses will be studied to get a good understanding of how to run trails economically and how it might affect the Palouse in the long run.

After determining the most needed connectivity gaps and evaluating the economic impacts of discussed projects, the PRTPO will determine which projects should be prioritized along with the local government, followed by a 10-year plan of laying out 25% of all proposed projects.

The Palouse RTPO, along with the help of the committees, intends to conduct economic impact analyses on existing trails or current trail constructions.

The PRTPO will reach out to experts on environmental justice to develop a plan to combat socioeconomic or environmental issues that may have been overlooked in past trail projects.

This will allow for new trails to keep communities safe and to give equal opportunity for recreation.
BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW OF THE
CPT-HSTP 2018 PLAN

HOW THIS PLAN CAN HELP THE REGION?

• Palouse RTPO serves- Asotin, Columbia, Garfield and Whitman County
• Planning Studies are required prior to any of the funding that is awarded by various state and federal agencies
• This plan ensures that the funding needs are vetted through the public and the community.
• Not every small town has money and resources to complete such individual plans, thus region wide plan will help everyone in the region.
• The plan will serve as a funding document for all local governments for Active Transportation Improvements
• The Palouse RTPO can help provide its own funding through this effort as well.
THE PLAN WEBSITE (IN PROGRESS)

www.palousetrails.palousertpo.org

(The Active Transportation network is identified by Counties & Activities- Walk, Bike, Hike and Horseback Riding)
CITY OF ASOTIN

TOTAL TRAILS - 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trails</th>
<th>Trail Name</th>
<th>Distance (mi)</th>
<th>Legend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Chief Looking Glass Park</td>
<td>0.83</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fitness Trail (Lewiston, ID)</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Greenbelt</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Hells Gate State Park (Loops A, B, C, Lewiston, ID)</td>
<td>17.2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total MI</td>
<td></td>
<td>39.03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend**
- Green: Short
- Yellow: Medium
- Red: Long
- Green square: Trailheads
- Red dot: Cities
Place a pin in an area where you see a trail is missing or incomplete.
City of Pullman - 17 Trails and 28 Connection Info

Place a pin in an area where you see a trail is missing or incomplete.

LEGEND

- Short
- Medium
- Long
- Trailheads
- Cities

*C Indicates that the line is a connection rather than a trail.
Place a pin in an area where you see a trail is missing or incomplete.
Place a pin in an area where you see a trail is missing or incomplete.
Place a pin in an area where you see a trail is missing or incomplete.
The Palouse RTPO is working with local agencies, State and Consultants on establishing three USBR routes through our region. (USBR # 40, 20, and 81)
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PARTICIPATE?

• Ask Questions at these Public Meetings

• Volunteer for our Citizen Advisory Committee efforts

• Share the information with others who can provide valuable input

• Participate in Public Surveys (Nov 30th, 2020)

• Provide Comments on Interactive Map (Nov 30th, 2020)

• Reach out to us with any questions / concerns / comments Or Reach out to your local government representatives.
THANK YOU!

- Please save your questions at the end of all presentations.
- Or, Please Provide them in the Chat.
- To provide your input via survey, please visit:
  www.palousertpo.org or www.palousetrails.palousertpo.org

NOW-

You Will Hear From Your Local and State Agencies About Various Active Transportation Improvement Efforts!