

# Four-laning US Highway 12 - Nine Mile Hill to Frenchtown Vicinity (Phase 7)



## Corridor history

Since 2003, WSDOT and the US Highway 12 Coalition have made significant progress toward four-laning US 12 from the Snake River (near Burbank) to Walla Walla. After the 11-mile Phase 7 project is complete, approximately 10 miles of two-lane, undivided existing highway will remain west of Nine Mile Hill. Completing the US 12 corridor will benefit residents, businesses, and travelers through improved safety, capacity, and mobility. In addition, the regional transportation system between the Tri-Cities and Walla Walla will be able to better support the agricultural, viticultural, and other freight traffic critical to Eastern Washington's economic vitality

## Corridor funding

The US Highway 12 Coalition secured federal funds in 2009 to begin the design of Phase 7 and in 2015 the Washington State Legislature provided the remaining funds as part of the Connecting Washington transportation funding package. Construction is planned to begin in early 2020 and the new four-lane, divided highway is anticipated to open in spring 2022.

## Environmental status

WSDOT and the Federal Highway Administration completed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process with the issuance of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in February 2010 and a Finding of No Significant Impact in September 2010. These NEPA documents explain the process used to determine the selected alternative for Phases 7 and 8. A NEPA re-evaluation was completed for the majority of Phase 7 in May 2015 to evaluate areas of additional right of way that were not included in the original 2010 EA study area. The 2015 NEPA re-evaluation did not result in any changes to the project.

## Needs and benefits

- Economic growth:** Completing the corridor will improve travel time and community access to the local road network.
- Increased safety:** The proposed four-lane highway will increase safety by decreasing the number of intersections on US 12 while separating opposing traffic with a median. This project will also reduce conflicts between passenger vehicles and slow-moving freight. Intersections with local roads will allow safe access to and from the new highway.

- Freight mobility:** Commercial trucks make up as much as 12% of traffic on US Highway 12 in this area. Building a four-lane highway will improve access for freight to Eastern Washington port facilities.

## Phase 7 project features

Phase 7 is located north of the communities of Touchet and Lowden. To maintain access to these communities, four connections will be constructed with local roads, listed west to east below:

- Existing US Highway 12 at the bottom of Nine Mile Hill
- Touchet Road North
- Woodward Canyon Road
- Lower Dry Creek Road

An undercrossing will be constructed to maintain connectivity along Cummins Road. Four new bridges will be constructed to allow the new highway to cross over the Touchet River and Dry Creek. A total of 14 new bridges and structures are planned for this project.

## Stakeholders

- US Highway 12 Coalition
- Port of Walla Walla
- Walla Walla County
- City of Walla Walla
- City of College Place
- Local businesses and employees
- Freight and agriculture industries
- Property owners and residents
- Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Environmental regulatory agencies
- Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Utility companies



## Phase 7 project timeline



## Progress along US Highway 12

### Phase 1 – COMPLETED - July 2004

Four-laning McNary Pool to Attalia

Total Project Cost ..... \$10.8 million

### Phase 2 – COMPLETED - November 2005

Four-laning SR 124 to McNary Pool

Total Project Cost ..... \$12.1 million

### Phase 3 – COMPLETED - September 2007

Four-laning Attalia Vicinity

Total Project Cost ..... \$16.0 million

### Phase 4 – COMPLETED - February 2010

Wallula Junction to Walla Walla Corridor Study

Total Project Cost ..... \$5.1 million

### Phase 5 – COMPLETED - February 2010

Attalia Vicinity to US 730 - Preliminary Design Only

Total Project Cost ..... \$0.8 million

### Phase 6 – COMPLETED - July 2010

Four-laning Frenchtown Vicinity to Walla Walla

Total Project Cost ..... \$51.6 million

### US 12/SR 124 Intersection - COMPLETED May 2012

Build new interchange at US 12 and SR 124

Build new overpass at Humorist Road

Total Project Cost ..... \$21.3 million

## Finish what we started

### Phase 7 – FULLY FUNDED - Construction Begins 2020 Nine Mile Hill to Frenchtown Vicinity

Estimated Project Cost. .... \$159.5 million

(Funded by 2015 Connecting Washington Transportation Funding Package)

Estimated Total Project Budget ..... \$164.8 million

### Phase 8 – Design & Right of Way PARTIALLY FUNDED Wallula to Nine Mile Hill

Design & Right of Way - Partially Funded . \$ 9.3 million

(Funded by 2015 Connecting Washington Transportation Funding Package)

Final Design & Construction-Unfunded. \$185.7 million

Estimated Total Project Cost ..... \$195.0 million



Design visualization of Touchet North Road

For more information: [wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us12/ninemilehilltofrenchtown/home](https://wsdot.wa.gov/projects/us12/ninemilehilltofrenchtown/home)

## WSDOT Design-Build Office

Bob Hooker, Project Engineer  
WSDOT – South Central Region  
2809 Rudkin Road, Union Gap, WA 98903  
509-577-1760, [HookerB@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:HookerB@wsdot.wa.gov)

## US Highway 12 Coalition

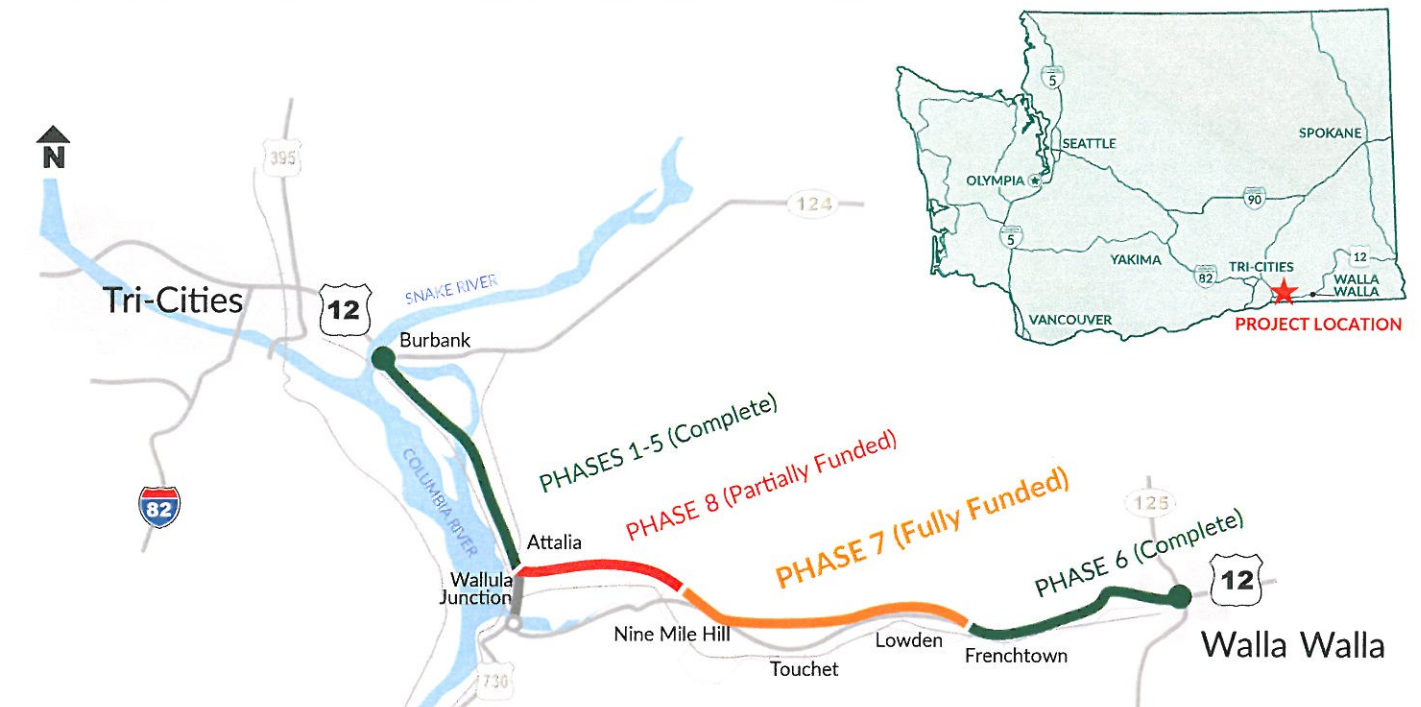
Patrick Reay, Executive Director  
Port of Walla Walla/US Highway 12 Coalition  
310 A Street, Walla Walla, WA 99362  
509-525-3100, [pr@portwallawalla.com](mailto:pr@portwallawalla.com)

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# US 12 - Nine Mile Hill to Frenchtown Vicinity Build New Highway (Phase 7)

Summer 2019



## What's happening?



This project is Phase 7 of 8 on the US Highway 12 corridor and builds upon the \$291.9 million the Legislature has already invested in the corridor. Eastern Washington's economy relies on the ability to move freight, and this investment improves safety and freight mobility for users of the US Highway 12 corridor.