

Public Notice Announcing the Availability of an Environmental Assessment

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development

The City of Tonasket: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment
AGENCY: USDA – Rural Development (USDA-RD)

ACTION: Notice of Availability of an Environmental Assessment

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that the USDA-RD, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, is issuing an environmental assessment (EA) in connection with possible impacts related to a project proposed by The City of Tonasket, of Tonasket, Washington. The proposal is for construction of new infrastructure improvements along US 97 / Whitcomb Ave to address the City's aging infrastructure in its downtown US 97 transportation corridor. The city of Tonasket has submitted an application to USDA-RD, The Department of Ecology (EYC), Department of Commerce (DOC), Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), and Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for funding of the proposal.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Tamara Champagne, State Environmental Coordinator,
USDA-RD 1835 Black Lake Blvd SW #B Olympia, Washington 98512
360.704.7761 - Tamara.Champagne@usda.gov

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The City of Tonasket proposes to Redevelop the US 97 / Whitcomb Ave Downtown Corridor in a project known as the Perfect Passage Project. The Perfect Passage Project was identified in the City's 2020 Redevelopment Master Plan that specifically targeted deficiencies (e.g. flooding, utilities, transportation, ADA, etc.) in Tonasket's urban core along US 97. Pre-design of the stormwater elements included in this project were identified in the City's 2021 Stormwater Master Plan. USDA-RD has been identified as a potential funding source for the project. While USDA-RD is funding a relatively small portion of the overall Perfect Passage Project, this Environmental Assessment (EA) considers ground disturbing activities for all elements of all phases of the project. This EA has been prepared by Varela Engineering with input from the Lead Agency (USDA-RD), as well as the other funding partners including EYC, CDBG, WSDOT, and Commerce. It is the intent of the EA to meet USDA-RD requirements per RD Instruction 1970-C for NEPA Environmental Assessments. This EA may be used as supplemental documentation to satisfy other funding partners environmental review requirements.

BACKGROUND/ PROJECT AREA The Perfect Passage Project aims to meet the goals set forth in the 2020 Redevelopment Master Plan and 2021 Stormwater Master Plan through the implementation of a multi-phased construction project. This Environmental Assessment considers all elements of all phases (1-3) of the project.

Below is a description the proposed project elements.

- Complete rebuild of US 97 from right-of-way to right-of-way including sidewalks, road base and hot mix asphalt from 7th St. to 1st St.
- Addition of pedestrian sidewalks and ADA ramps along the north side of US97 from 1st St. to Delicious St.
- Installation of new pedestrian facilities including curb extensions, ADA ramps, and overhead street lighting through entire project area
- Replacement of the existing storm water collection system under US 97 in order to increase stormwater conveyance capacity, reduce flooding, and provide initial treatment to untreated stormwater
- Replacement of existing water mains under US 97 from 6th St. to Division St. including mainline pipe, fire hydrants, service pipe, meter boxes and setters through entire project area
- Replacement of portions of the existing sanitary sewer mains under US 97 from 3rd St. to Division St. including mainline pipe, manholes and service laterals to the property/ right-of-way line
- Add street trees and planter areas
- Potentially add gateway features at north and south ends of the project
- Potentially add landscape/art features at 4 locations within the project area

Valera Engineering, an environmental consultant, prepared an environmental assessment for USDA-RD that describes the project, assesses the proposed project's environmental impacts, and summarizes as applicable any mitigation measures used to minimize environmental effects. USDA-RD has conducted an independent evaluation of the environmental assessment and

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believes that it accurately assesses the impacts of the proposed project. No significant impacts are expected as a result of the construction of the project. Questions and comments should be sent to USDA-RD at the address provided.

USDA-RD will accept questions and comments on the environmental assessment for 14 days from the date of publication of this notice.

Any final action by RUS related to the proposed project will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal environmental laws and regulations and completion of environmental review procedures as prescribed by 7 CFR Part 1970, Environmental Policies and Procedures. A general location map of the proposal is shown below *US 97 / Whitcomb Ave Downtown Corridor*

A copy of the EA is available for public review at The City of Tonasket City Hall. The **14**-day comment period ends August 24, 2023. Please address questions and comments to USDA Program Specialist Michael Lamey – Program Specialist 509-415-3817 or via email michael.lamey@usda.gov