Completing the Corridor – US Highway 12

ASCE Columbia Section Presentation

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WSDOT South Central Region Project Engineer
February 28, 2024
• What progress have we made?
• What are we working on now?
• Questions?
Four-laning US Highway 12 between Burbank and Walla Walla:
Improving a 40-mile corridor between Burbank to Walla Walla to increase freight mobility, improve safety, and promote economic growth.

- Phase 1 – McNary Pool to Attalia Vicinity (MP 299 to 302) COMPLETED
- Phase 2 – SR 124 to McNary Pool (MP 295 to 299) COMPLETED
- Phase 3 – Attalia Vicinity Add Lanes (MP 302 to 305) COMPLETED
- Phase 4 – Corridor Study (EA) COMPLETED
- Phase 5 – Preliminary Design (Attalia to 730) COMPLETED
- Phase 6 – Frenchtown to Walla Walla (MP 328 to 336) COMPLETED
- Phase 7 – Nine Mile Hill to Frenchtown (MP 317 to 328) COMPLETED
- Phase 8 – Wallula to Nine Mile Hill (MP 304 to 317) FUNDED FOR DESIGN AND R/W

What progress have we made?
US Highway 12 – Completed Phases
Phase 1 – McNary Pool to Attalia – Add Lanes (MP 299 - 302)

- 4-laning US 12 through environmentally sensitive area (wetlands)
  - Utilized “urban” cross section in areas to minimize impacts
- Replaced Bridge #12/603 – 88ft long x 62ft wide
- Phase was completed in July 2004
- Total Project Cost . . . $11.2 million
US Highway 12 – Completed Phases
Phase 2 – SR 124 to McNary Pool – Add Lanes (MP 295 – 299)

- Four-laning completed November 2005
- Project Cost . . . $12.1 million

US 12/ SR 124 Interchange
- New interchange at US 12 and SR 124
- New overpass at Humorist Road
- Completed May 2012
- Total Project Cost. . . $21.3 million
• Constructed two ~550ft long x 40ft wide bridges over 4 railroad lines.
• 4-laned US 12, using a “rural” cross section, with 50ft+ medians.
• Limited access improvements, improving safety and operations along corridor.
• Completed September 2007
• Total Project Cost . . . $16.0 million
Phase 4 – Wallula Junction to Walla Walla Corridor Study
• This study helped determine the alternatives evaluated in Phases 7 and 8
• Completed February 2010
• Total Project Cost . . . . $5.4 million

Phase 5 – Attalia Vicinity to US 730 – Preliminary Design Only
• Completed February 2010
• Total Project Cost . . . . $0.8 million
US Highway 12 – Completed Phases
Phase 6 – Frenchtown to Walla Walla – Add Lanes (MP 328 - 336)

- 4-laned 8-miles of US 12, including 3 at-grade intersections
- Constructed two bridges over Myra Road
- Constructed 3 roundabouts at Myra Road interchange
- Completed July 2010
- Total Project Cost . . .$51.9 million
US Highway 12 Completed Phases
Phase 7 – Nine Mile Hill to Frenchtown Vicinity (MP 317 – 328)

- Delivery Method: Design-Build Project
- Purchased 300+ acres of new ROW
- 11 miles of new 4-lane highway
  - Full Control, Limited Access
- 11 new bridges
- 2 new interchanges
US Highway 12 Completed Phases
Phase 7 (Continued) – Bridges and Interchanges

- 11 new bridges and two new interchanges
- Access allowed at interchanges only, providing a full control, limited access highway (Increased mobility, operations, and safety along the corridor).
US Highway 12 Completed Phases
Phase 7 (Continued) – Collaborating with Stakeholders

Multi-year Community Engagement effort included:

- Multiple Open Houses held in Touchet
- Individual one-on-one meetings with impacted landowners
- Meetings with local businesses and farmers
- Participation with Port of Walla Walla at Walla Walla County Fair

Pre-construction relocation of impacted utilities included:

- Multiple irrigation districts
- Power transmission lines
- Private irrigation
- Relocations occurred during off-season to minimize impacts to crops
US Highway 12 Completed Phases
Phase 7 (Continued) – Project Schedule & Cost

Design Completed 2019

Construction Began May 2020

Construction Completed August 2023

Total Project Cost...$162 million

At Touchet River Bridge
What are we working on now?
US 12/Wallula to Nine Mile Hill – Build New Highway
Phase 8 (Continued) – Project Vicinity

This project will complete the final section of the improving US 12 to a four-lane highway.

- **Freight Mobility:** Improve access for freight to Eastern Washington ports.
- **Reduce Risk of Crashes:** Reduce risk of crashes by decreasing number of intersections, improving sight distance, and separating opposing traffic with a median.
- **Economic Growth:** Improve travel time and community access.
US 12/Wallula to Nine Mile Hill – Build New Highway
Phase 8 – Safety

US 12/ Attalia to Nine Mile Hill - 10 Year Crash Density

Crash Summary
The 239 Crashes occurred between January 1st, 2008 and December 31st, 2017. The locations of the crashes are located on US 12 between mileposts 304.20 and 317.90, US 730 between mileposts 5.76 and 6.08, and US 730 Spur between 5.82 and 6.12.
• Approximately 300+ Acres Need to be Acquired
• Approximately 20 Impacted Parcels, ~10 Impacted Property Owners
• Project will build ~10.5 Miles of a new US 12 alignment (Full Control, Limited Access)
  • One new interchange. Frontage roads will be built to maintain local access.
US 12/Wallula to Nine Mile Hill – Build New Highway
Phase 8 – Earthwork

- The project has a significant amount of earthwork
  - Excavation: ~3.0 million CY
  - Shallow bedrock in canyon region will require significant rock blasting
  - A Geotechnical exploration is planned for mid-2024 to get site data and bedrock depths.
- Multiple bridges are needed to span several large canyons
• 4 large canyon crossings
  • 3 large bridges
  • Weathering Steel Girders
  • Canyon 2 to be filled

• In coordination with WDFW, WSDOT is investing in multiple bridges at these canyons to maintain critical wildlife connectivity to the Walla Walla River to the South.
US 12/Wallula to Nine Mile Hill – Build New Highway
Phase 8 – Utilities

AVOID OR RELOCATE UTILITIES:

- Power Transmission lines (69kV to 500kV)
- Natural Gas Lines and Oil Transmission pipelines
- High production irrigation wells
New highway alignment = Minimal impacts to traffic during construction
• Accelerated construction schedules
• Reduced construction costs
• Minimal impacts to tourism, freight, and agriculture harvest
US 12 Phase 8 – Project Stakeholders

- US Highway 12 Safety 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 Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Environmental Regulatory Agencies
- Walla Walla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
- Utility Companies
- Washington State Patrol
US 12/Wallula to Nine Mile Hill – Build New Highway
Phase 8 – Schedule & Cost

- Tentative Construction Phase 2027 - 2029

**Budget**

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- Tentative Construction Cost: $280 million
QUESTIONS?

Thank You

Phase 8 website
https://wsdot.wa.gov/construction-planning/search-projects/us-12-wallula-nine-mile-hill-build-new-highway

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