



**PRESS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Aug 3, 2017

**Port of Moses Lake Receives \$9.9 million INFRA grant for the Northern Columbia Basin Railroad Project**

On August 3, 2017, the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced that the Port of Moses Lake's Northern Columbia Basin Rail Project has been selected to receive a \$9.9 million award as a small project under the Federal INFRA Grant Program. This grant program was created under the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act by Congress in late 2015 to fund critical freight and highway projects across the country.

Darrin Jackson, Commissioner of the Port of Moses Lake, reacted to the news,

"The Port of Moses Lake would like to thank all of our federal, state and local partners, elected officials and local businesses that supported our application for this grant. The Northern Columbia Basin Rail project will bring rail service to industrial lands surrounding the Grant County International Airport and along the Wheeler Corridor, opening the door to new businesses and expansion of existing businesses. The rail service will bring great opportunities to our region and to the state, and we are excited about moving ahead as quickly as possible."

The NCBRP will re-locate existing rail lines in the City of Moses Lake to the Wheeler Corridor outside of the downtown area. It will extend rail service to 1,500 acres of industrial lands adjacent to the Grant County International Airport and access about 1,000 acres of industrial lands along the Wheeler Industrial Corridor. Importantly, the new rail line will provide new options for the region's agricultural producers, aerospace manufacturers, and other industries to move raw material and finished goods by rail, eliminating their sole reliance on trucking. The project will assist in growing existing industries and recruiting new businesses that need cost effective transportation options.

Commission President Kunkle noted that, "The Port, the Moses Lake Community and all of our partners have been actively working on this project for well over a decade. The Port is pleased that state and federal officials are confident in the benefits of this project, and, with this grant, we are poised to ensure that the project is completed as scheduled by June 30, 2021. The completion of this project will serve as a foundation in our ongoing work to foster economic development for our community and region."

The \$30 million rail project, identified as an important economic development and freight mobility project in Washington State, had previously received \$21.9 million in funding from Washington State.

**Questions about the Northern Columbia Basin Rail Project? Contact:**

Jeff Bishop, Executive Director, Port of Moses Lake  
[jbishop@portofmoseslake.com](mailto:jbishop@portofmoseslake.com) 509.762.5363

Cantwell / Murray Press Release: <http://www.cantwell.senate.gov/news/press-releases/cantwell-murray-announce-award-of-99-million-for-moses-lake-infrastructure-project>