



CONNELL RAIL INTERCHANGE

GOAL

To improve and modernize rail infrastructure - for community and economic growth.

PLAN

The Connell Rail Interchange is located in the City of Connell in eastern Washington, as the Columbia Basin Railroad (CBRR) line intersects with Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF). The Connell site provides access to a three-county region, abundant with agriculture and industry.

Rail congestion at Connell involves an outdated and undersized rail interchange configuration. The current downtown location impacts safety and causes extra delays at primary street crossings.

Our aim is to efficiently update rail service for economic prosperity and vitality of our community. Our task is to resolve a bottleneck or pinch point; to improve safety and promote industry growth.

ACTION

The Connell Rail Interchange Coalition has created remarkable collaboration to develop solutions. This project links with massive rail construction investment all along the Great Northern Corridor. Coordinated efforts will achieve rail improvement, long-term sustainability, and economic growth. Matching funds are pledged by eleven entities, with proportional benefit and participation.

VALUE

The Connell Rail Interchange project is a high-priority need which targets economic development. It has local value and regional benefit; with committed private partnerships and municipal support.

Rail infrastructure improvements will add economic stability and year-round, family wage jobs. Enhanced rail service will lessen roadway congestion; adding cost-competitive advantages/options.

Better freight mobility has proven to have a dynamic effect. Port of Warden sited the \$109 million Pacific Coast Canola plant, which relies on timely rail service and unit train capability. However, unit trains coming from Spokane must go all the way to Pasco and back, to turn west at Connell.

The importance of the Connell Rail Interchange goes well beyond City of Connell, as it impacts economic prosperity all across the state. Expanded growth in rail traffic has heightened the need for modern improvements.

PROGRESS

Our cornerstones for success are: Communication – Collaboration – Commitment – Community. Legislators and state agency officials have given top-quality leadership, vision, and support. Columbia Basin Railroad led collaborative efforts to improve regional rail infrastructure needs.

Concept plans were developed which accommodate orderly use; by a new interchange location which shifts the rail switch yard into industrial areas; away from residential/school traffic patterns. This goal will harness and attract economic development; to grow our region and our community.