

Whitman County Comprehensive Plan Update

Virtual Public Meeting/Planning Commission

April 21, 2021



Welcome!

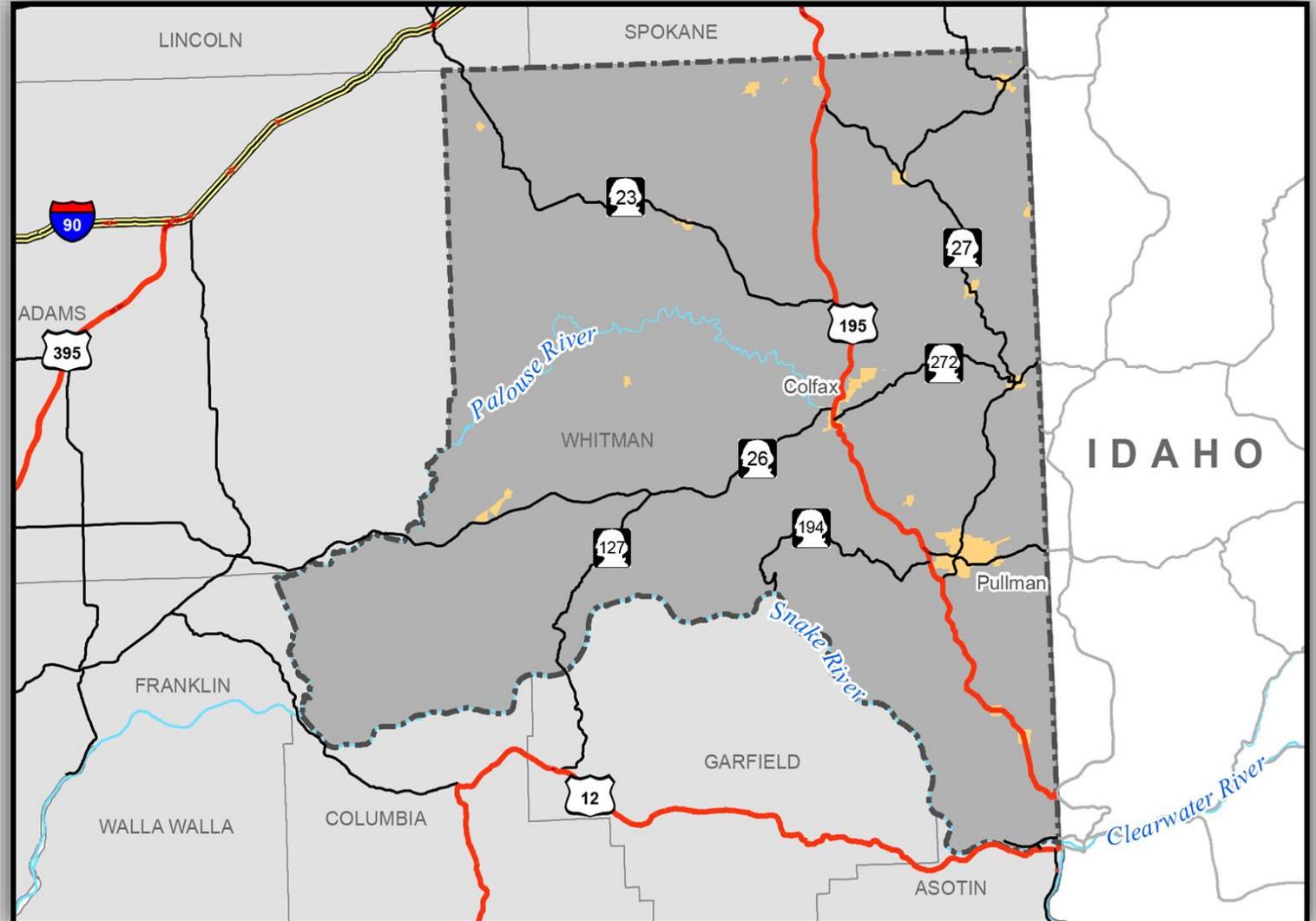
Introductions:

- Todd Hall, Planning Manager
- Matt Covert, Planner
- Sami Adams, Associate Planner

- Alan Thomson, County Planner
- Mark Storey, County Public Works Director

LDC

Surveying
Engineering
Planning



Comprehensive Plan Elements

LDC staff have begun drafting elements based on general research of Whitman County. The goals and policies of each element will be drafted after workshops with the community later this summer.

Introduction

Land Use

Transportation

Parks, Recreation & Trails

Economic Development

Natural Resources & Agricultural Conservation

Environmental Protection & Climate Change

Public Services

Facilities & Utilities

CHAPTER 3: TRANSPORTATION ELEMENT

Purpose

As required by Washington statutes, the Transportation Element's purpose is to document and analyze existing conditions and planned locations, functions, capacity, levels of service, environmental impacts, and mobility levels for both motorized and non-motorized travel throughout Whitman County. An additional purpose is to provide standards for reviewing the compatibility of State and local transportation investments of any kind with the Comprehensive Plan. This is done in coordination with the Washington State Department of Transportation as well as other regional planning partners and stakeholders. Lastly, this Element is the guiding document for the Board of County Commissioners linking the County's Six-Year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), priority array, 10-year Unmet Needs Study and other similar long range transportation planning programs supporting roads, bridges, and other county transportation projects.

Introduction

The transportation infrastructure within Whitman County is a key element to providing safe and efficient travel for residents and commerce. It is essential that the County's network of roads, bridges, rails and waterways remain accessible. Ongoing maintenance and safety of these facilities remains a priority so that goods

and services can be provided freely with minimal impacts.

The transportation network within the county should ensure:

- Year-round road access on primary county roads serving connecting business centers within and outside of Whitman County
- Roads with wide rights-of-way to allow for farming vehicles to travel safely amongst typical vehicular traffic
- Maintain connections to freight transportation systems such as rail lines and the Snake River
- Reliable cost-effective solutions to support public transportation

Findings

Highways/Roads

U.S. Route 195

U.S. Route 195 (U.S. 195) is the primary north-south transportation route in Whitman County and serves as the backbone of the movement of goods and people throughout the county and the Palouse region. The highway, considered to be the busiest in southeastern Washington, is classified as a Highway of Statewide Significance (HSS) as identified by Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT). U.S. 195 part of the Palouse Scenic Byway (further described below) and is also classified as a major arterial by Whitman County. The |

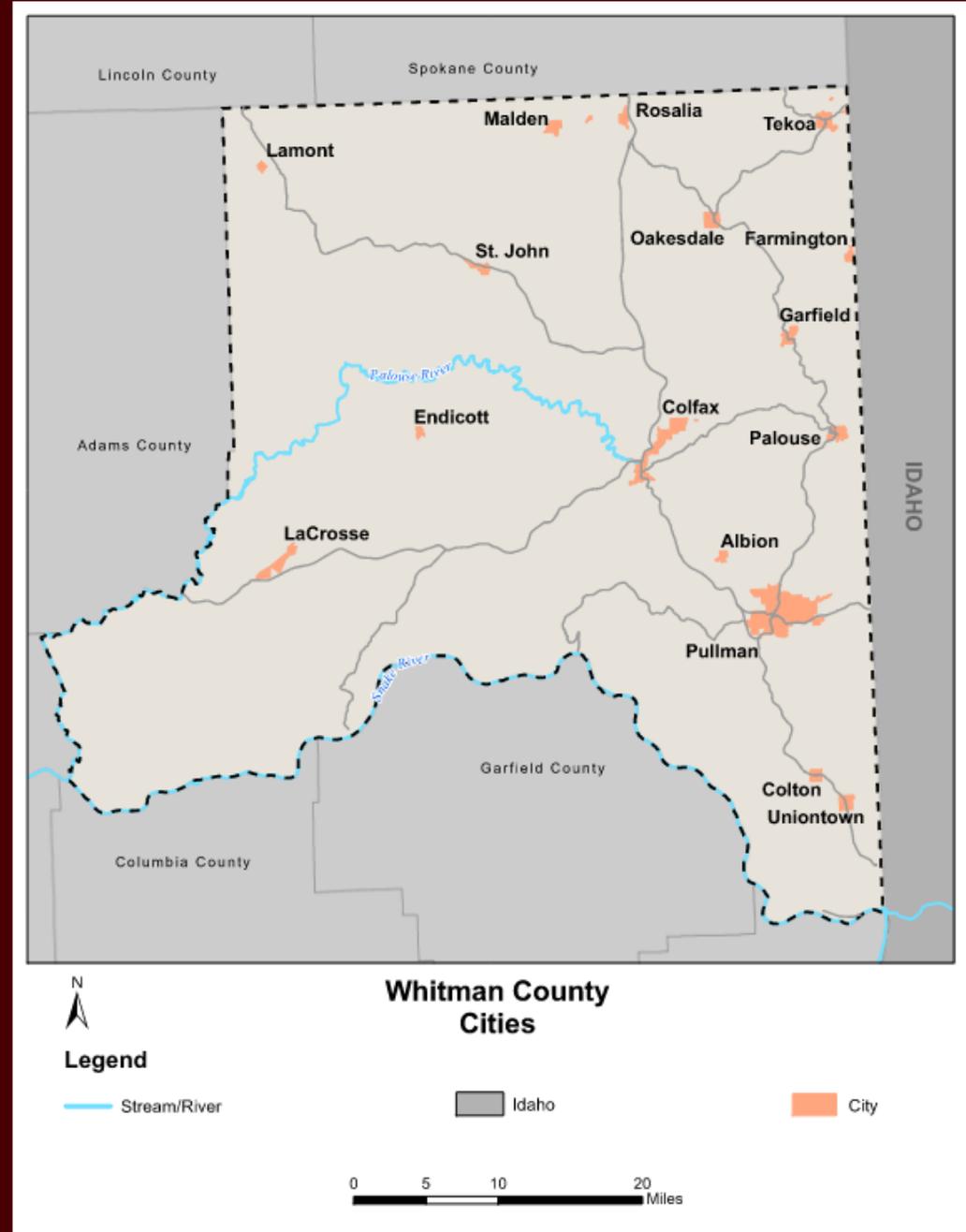
Comprehensive Plan Progress

Introduction

- 'County at a Glance'
- Population & Demographics
- Plan Characteristics
- Community Values and Framework Goals (TBD)

Land Use

- Analysis of existing population and land use (Agriculture, Rural Residential, Urban Residential, Industrial, Commercial)
- Analysis of future development and uses (future of cluster zoning in Pullman Area, siting of renewable energy facilities, development along Pullman/ Moscow corridor)



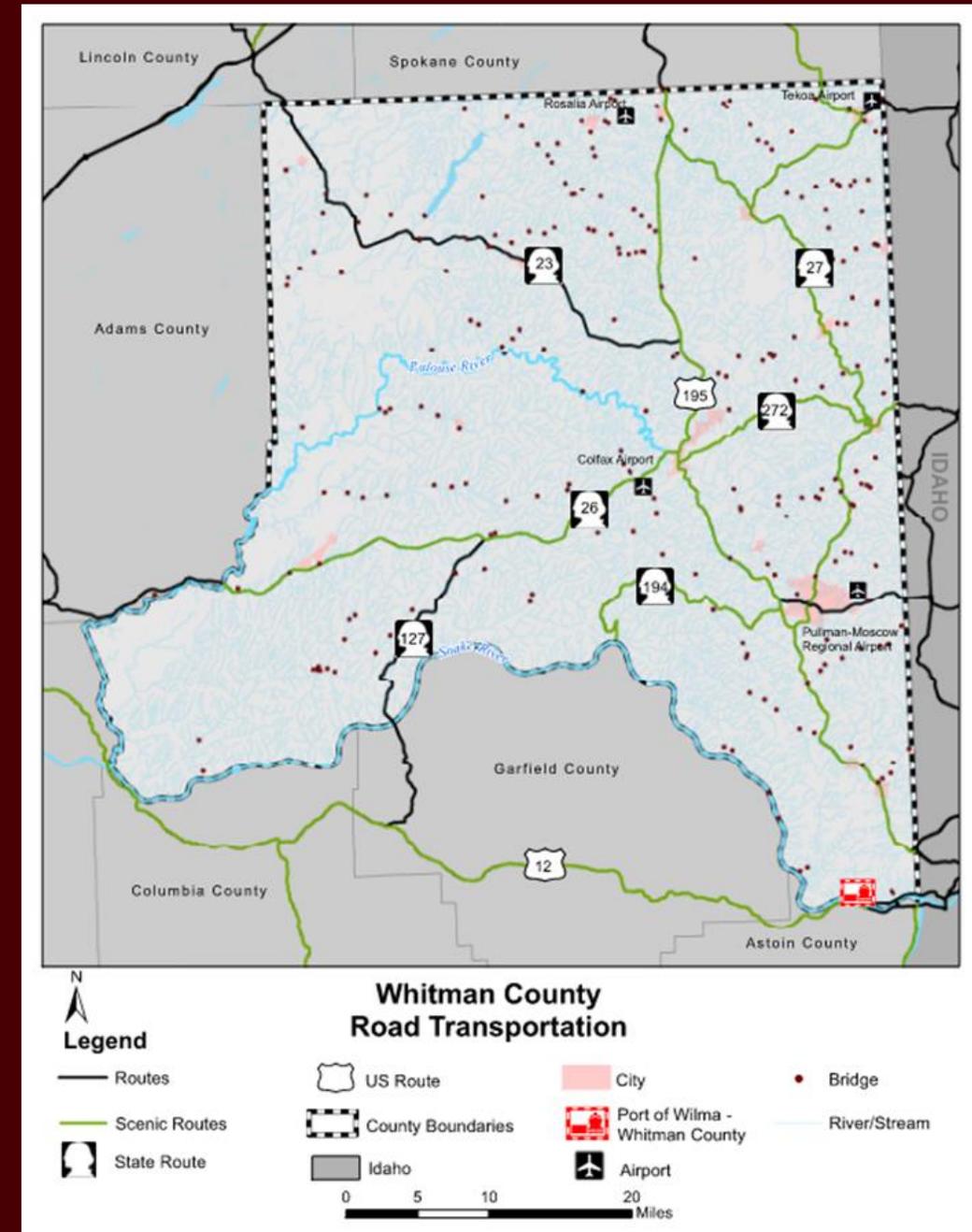
Comprehensive Plan Progress

Transportation

- Analysis of existing conditions, planned locations, levels of service, environmental impacts and mobility for motorized and non-motorized travel
- Guiding document for the County's Six-Year Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP)

Economic Development

- Enhance Whitman County's economic vitality
- Ensure long-term job and business growth
- Analysis of Whitman County Economic Development Partnerships (Port, SEWEDA, Palouse Knowledge Corridor)



Comprehensive Plan Elements – Framework Goals

Framework Goals represent the shared vision and values behind each of the Comprehensive Plan Elements. These goals have been crafted through initial public meetings and the County's long-term objectives as identified by staff.

- Framework Goal 1 – Preserve Rural Character
- Framework Goal 2 – Preserve and Protect Existing Natural Resource
- Framework Goal 3 – Enhance Countywide Services
- Framework Goal 4 – Support Local Business and Countywide Economic Growth
- Framework Goal 5 – Protect Environmental Quality and Respond to Climate Change



Comprehensive Plan Elements – Framework Goals



- Framework Goal 6 – Promote and Improve Mobility Options
- Framework Goal 7 – Effective Land Use Planning
- Framework Goal 8 – Ongoing Public Involvement
- Framework Goal 9 – Support Recreation and Access to Natural Areas
- Framework Goal 10- Preserve Cultural Heritage of Whitman County

Public Survey

Q6 Should agriculture remain the primary economic source of the County's economy? If not, what other sector(s)?
Essay

Date	Answers
16 minutes ago	Yes
2 hours ago	yes
3 hours ago	WSU and SEL and other businesses should be considered a primary economic source
4 hours ago	YES
6 hours ago	No, manufacturing should be as well
14 hours ago	No. Education, engineering
16 hours ago	Yes
16 hours ago	Yes
16 hours ago	Manufacturing, Green Energy, Transportation, Whatever will help the economy
17 hours ago	Commerce/production (SEL is a great example), etc

Load More

Public Survey available since January 19th
371 responses received so far

Go to the County's
Planning Division - Comprehensive Plan Webpage
to access the survey.

(Websearch = Whitman County Comprehensive Plan)

Public Survey – Continued

Q7

What are your top two priorities that you believe Whitman County should focus on over the next 20 years?

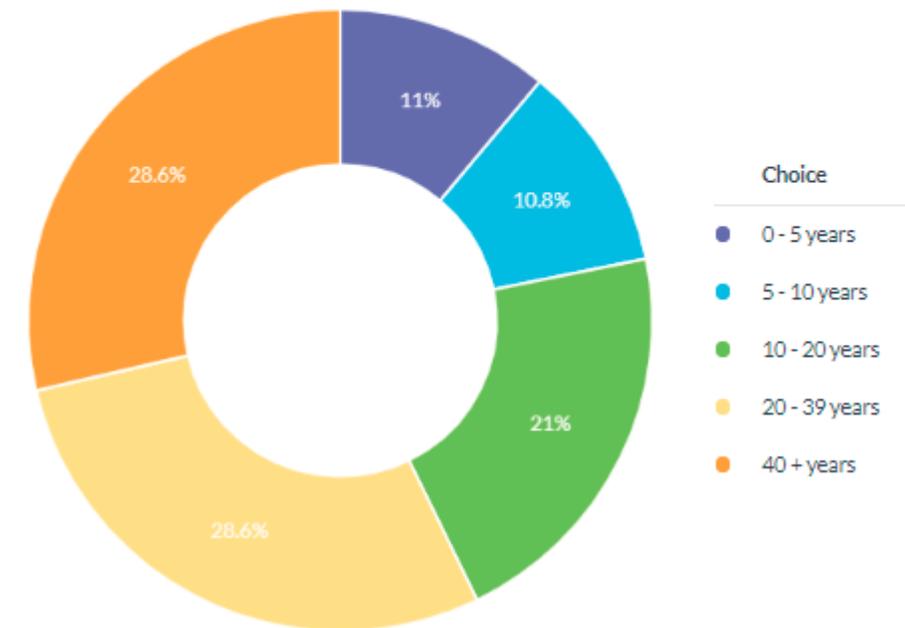
Multiple Choice



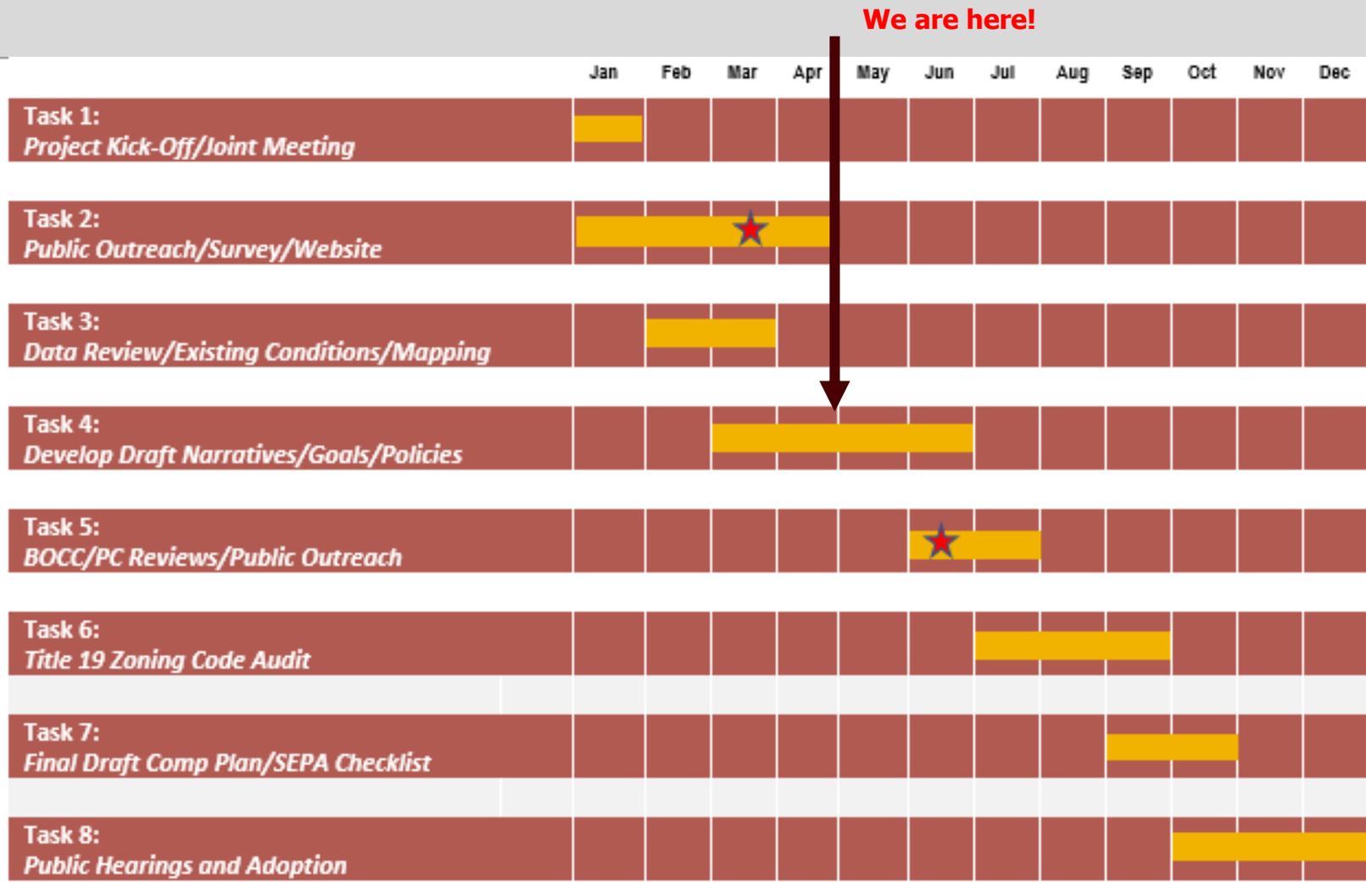
Q3

How long have you lived in Whitman County?

Multiple Choice



Project Timeline



★ Virtual Public Meetings
 March 10th
 April 21st

★ In-Person
 Public Meeting(s)
 Week of June 21st
 Locations TBD

For more information / questions / comments

If you have any questions about the project, the process, or any other general planning questions:
VISIT THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PROJECT PAGE

<https://whitmancounty.org/513/Comprehensive-Plan>

OR CONTACT:



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