



Nor'wester newsletter

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Preliminary info: 2022 Notice of Funding for RAISE grants

The USDOT has released preliminary information about Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. Funds are administered through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The IIJA program looks to award funds for surface transportation infrastructure projects that will have a significant local or regional impact.

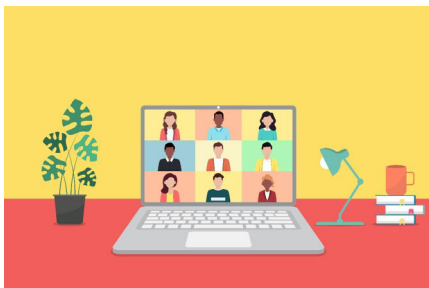
View the RAISE [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) for more information.



Grant applications are due by 5:00 p.m. Eastern Time on April 14, 2022.

MRSC hosting tax increment financing discussion Feb. 3

Registration closes at 5 p.m. Feb. 2



The non-profit Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) is hosting a conversation about [tax increment financing](#) (TIF) with strategist Bob Stowe of Stowe Development Strategies and MRSC Finance Consultant Eric Lowell. TIF is a funding mechanism that was signed into law in 2021 and is now available to cities, counties, and port districts in Washington state to finance public

improvements and encourage private development.

The virtual conversation will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 3. **Registration is \$35 and closes at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 2.** [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Seeking Input on MARAD Reauthorization

The Senate Commerce Majority is starting to draft the Maritime Administration (MARAD) Reauthorization for FY2023. The Committee will use the [Cantwell/Wicker](#) bill introduced in the Senate as a starting point. Policies and projects that did not make into the final MARAD bill included in the [final National Defense Authorization Act](#) (see the Maritime Administration title) will be reconsidered for the FY23 MARAD bill.

If you have requests, please submit the following information to Dena Horton by February 10, 2022.

Organization:

Priority (e.g., 1st, 2nd,):

Request/Project Name:

Short Purpose/Request Description:

Language (if applicable):

Public comment period for proposed WOTUS rule extended to March 8



The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of the Army are extending the deadline to **March 8, 2022, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time** for the Clean Water Act Section 123 Columbia River Basin Restoration Program - Request for Applications.

The EPA and Army have announced a proposed rule to re-establish the pre-2015 definition of “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) which had been in place for decades, updated to reflect consideration of Supreme Court decisions.

In developing the proposed rule, the EPA and Army reviewed and considered the extensive feedback and recommendations received from states, tribes, local governments, and stakeholders through consultations and pre-proposal meetings and webinars.

Public comments should be submitted by March 8, 2022, 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, through the [Federal Register](#) or via email at OW-Docket@epa.gov.

For more information on the proposal, visit www.epa.gov/wotus.

PNWA is reviewing this change to WOTUS to determine how it may impact the many sectors of our membership. If you have impacts or concerns to share, please contact PNWA Government Relations Director [Dena Horton](#).

Port of Whitman County receives grant to expand broadband access

Congratulations to the Port of Whitman County on receiving a \$1.06 million grant from the Washington State Broadband Office! When combined with matching funds from partner St. John Telephone Company, this grant allows the port to extend fiber optic internet to homes and businesses in Steptoe and Diamond.

The port has continually innovated and partnered with local businesses and state agencies to expand broadband access in its communities, providing critical connections for workers, students, businesses, service providers, and many others.



Construction is scheduled to begin by June 2022 and be completed by December 2023.

[Read the port's news release.](#)

(Photo Credit: Port of Whitman County)

Seattle-Tacoma International Airport receives prestigious 4-star airport rating



PNWA congratulates the Port of Seattle for receiving the coveted 4-Star Rating from Skytrax, the international air transport rating organization. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) is only the second large hub U.S. airport (serving 40 million or more passengers) to receive this rating.

This accomplishment follows the second anniversary of unveiling the new SEA brand, extensive customer experience improvements, and modernization projects at N Concourse and the soon-to-open International Arrivals Facility.

[Read more here.](#)

(Photo Credit: Port of Seattle)

Thank you to Mission sponsor Port of Ilwaco!

A big thank you to the Port of Ilwaco, Bronze sponsor for the 2022 Mission to Washington!

We are grateful for the support of our members as we look forward to this year's Mission and all the positive impact and critical information our group provides to the Northwest Congressional delegation.

PORT OF ILWACO



The 2022 virtual Mission to Washington is scheduled for March 14–17. Registration is open for PNWA members now, and sponsorships are available at the Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum levels. Increase your organization's visibility, support PNWA's advocacy efforts, gain exposure on our web and social media sites and our Nor'wester newsletter and be recognized during our meetings and webinars.

Learn more [here](#) or sign up for sponsorship when you [register for the conference](#). Please contact [Randi Besser](#) for more information.

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