

**KITTITAS COUNTY  
PUBLIC WORKS STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
COMMISSIONERS' AUDITORIUM, 205 WEST 5TH ROOM 109  
Regular Meeting**

**MONDAY**

**1:30 PM**

**FEBRUARY 09, 2026**

Board members present: Chairman Cory Wright, and Commissioner Laura Osiadacz.

Others: Josh Fredrickson, Lisa Godden, Public Works; Stephanie Hartung, Kittitas County Prosecutor's Office; Bryan Elliot, Chair of the Conference of Governments (COG) via WebEx and 2 members of the public.

At 1:30 PM Chairman Cory Wright opened the Public Works Study Session.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pat Kelleher raised concerns regarding lack of clarity in proposed funding allocations connected to Conference of Governments (COG) and the Chamber of Commerce.

**KITTITAS COUNTY CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTS PUBLIC FACILITIES FUND 2026 PROJECT AWARD**

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the Conference of Governments (COG) project awards. COG has been tasked with making recommendations for projects funded through the .09 funds. Funding for two projects were brought forward for the Board of County Commissioners to consider. Joshua Fredrickson stated the first is for ongoing support for the work of the Kittitas County Chamber of Commerce, and the second is for a newly created Executive Director of COG position. Joshua Fredrickson stated that these two funding requests meet the eligibility criteria and Joshua Fredrickson requested direction from the Board of County Commissioners in preparing the enabling documents for Board of County Commissioners' review and consideration at a future meeting.

Joshua Fredrickson advised that Bryan Elliot is on the call via WebEx if they have any questions for him.

Bryan Elliot briefed the Board of County Commissioners regarding the current role the Chamber of Commerce plays until the Executive Director of COG position can be filled. Bryan Elliott noted that, as the new economic development partnership and Executive Director function begin, certain duties may shift in the future; in the interim, the Chamber continues providing services and should be compensated accordingly.

2026-02-09 MINUTES

APPROVED

3/3/2026

Chairman Cory Wright confirmed the "0.09" funding source is not a sales tax paid by local taxpayers and referenced it as a sales tax credit based on county status; staff confirmed.

Commissioner Laura Osiadacz made a motion to direct staff to prepare the enabling documents to accept the funding award that they be brought forward to the Board of County Commissioners at a future meeting. Chairman Cory Wright seconded the motion. Motion passed.

#### **ROAD IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the Road Improvement District process. The County Road adoption process is addressed in Kittitas County Code Chapter 12. Joshua Fredrickson stated that roads may be dedicated for public use (e.g., older plats), but not formally adopted into the county road system. If a road is adopted as a county road, the County assumes ongoing maintenance responsibility. Joshua Fredrickson explained that existing roads that do not meet current standards typically must be brought up to current standard before Public Works supports adoption.

Joshua Fredrickson advised that he has spoken to a resident of South Cle Elum Ridge regarding what it would look like to bring that road on to the county road system.

Joshua Fredrickson explained the two ways to initiate an RID:

1. Petition by a majority of benefiting property owners (requires validation).
2. BOCC-initiated establishment (does not require petition).

Joshua Fredrickson stated that Cost Estimates and Right of Way design would then be brought to a public hearing in front of the Board of County Commissioners for consideration.

Chairman Cory Wright expressed a preference to avoid Board of County Commissioner initiating RID action and instead would require proof of resident desire via petition before proceeding further.

Chairman Cory Wright indicated he had concerns about avoiding problems experienced in a past RID effort related to perceived inequities in assessment distribution.

Joshua Fredrickson stated that Maintenance implications including agency licenses can impose conditions (e.g., tree removal and related permissions) differing from standard county right-of-way operations.

Chairman Cory Wright asked about a need for operational features such as a snowplow turnaround if the road were improved/adopted.

Joshua Fredrickson stated that improvements the County would need to make would include a turnaround so day-to-day operations can have the option to turn around.

Joshua Fredrickson stated that no action was being asked of the Board of County Commissioners at this time and that this was just information only.

**KITTITAS COUNTY CWU TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER CENTER FEASIBILITY PROJECT UPDATE**

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners on the Kittitas County CWU Technology Transfer Center Feasibility Project and requested direction from the Board of County Commissioners in preparing the enabling documents to accept the awarded funding and to work with the Conference of Governments (COG) on upcoming phases.

Joshua Fredrickson described the feasibility effort focused on the potential reuse of the Old Heat facility/building at Central Washington University (CWU) on University Way. He explained funding was received from Washington State Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB) grant, with 0.09 funds used as match to fund the feasibility study. Joshua Fredrickson stated a consultant was hired and the feasibility work evaluated a partnership with CWU for economic growth to benefit the County as a whole. As required by CERB, the study provided alternatives and identified the CWU-owned site as having strong potential due to location and ownership conditions.

Joshua Fredrickson briefed the Board of County Commissioners that CWU was able to receive funding for improvements that CWU has completed, including HVAC and seismic work. Joshua Fredrickson emphasized the funding for this project would need to be through capital stacking through partnerships as the project is intended to benefit not only CWU or the County, but the broader region and jurisdictions.

Joshua Fredrickson advised that Bryan Elliot is on the call via WebEx if they have any questions for him.

Bryan Elliott stated COG would be discussing the 2026 work program priorities at its next meeting and viewed this project as aligned with preparing "shovel-ready" opportunities.

Commissioner Laura Osiadacz made a motion to direct staff to prepare the enabling documents to accept the feasibility documents to be brought forward to the Board of County Commissioners at a future meeting and work with COG on next phases. Chairman Cory Wright seconded the motion. Motion passed.

**NO OTHER BUSINESS**

Meeting concluded at 2:03 PM

**KITTITAS COUNTY COMMISSIONER:  
KITTITAS COUNTY, WASHINGTON**



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**Lisa Godden, Administrative  
Assistant**



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**Cory Wright, Chairman**