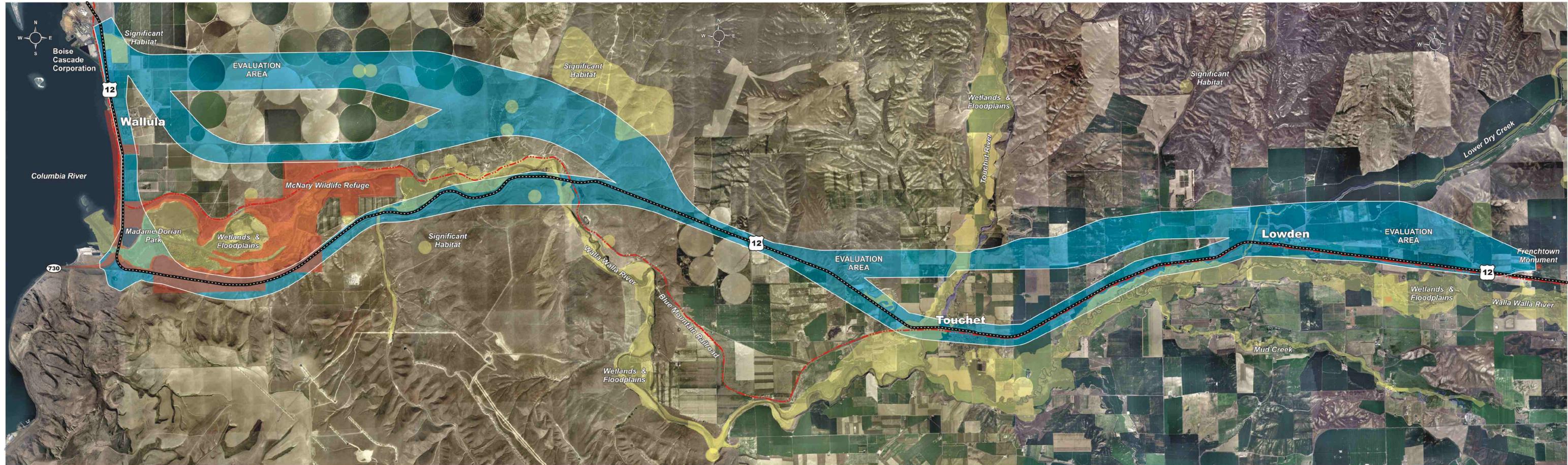


# PHASES 7 & 8: Wallula to Walla Walla Planning Study Four-laning US Highway 12



### What is the purpose of this study?

The Wallula to Walla Walla Planning Study will develop recommendations for the location of an improved four-lane divided highway. Simply widening US 12 in its current location could negatively impact existing businesses, farms, communities, historical sites, and wildlife habitat.

### What will the study accomplish?

- Identify social, economic, environmental, engineering, and financial constraints
- Determine acceptable locations and preferred route alternatives
- Develop preliminary project schedules and cost estimates for phases 5, 6, 7, and 8

### What section will be constructed first?

The planning study first focused on the area from McDonald Road to Walla Walla (Phase 6) because it is the most congested section. Due to urban growth, impacts to developed property would increase if highway construction was delayed.

### What has been done so far?

A footprint study was completed for the section of US 12 between the US 12/SR 730 intersection and Walla Walla. The study recommended a new highway be constructed north of existing US 12 highway based on the following criteria:

- Environmental Impacts
- Right of way and access changes
- Accident history and traffic analysis
- Engineering feasibility

## IT'S YOUR NICKEL. WATCH IT WORK.

This project is funded in part by the 2003 Legislative Transportation Funding Package. The main source of funding is a 5¢ increase in the gas tax. The package also includes an increase in the large truck gross weight fee and a 0.3 percent vehicle sales tax.

### Currently Identified Areas of Concern

- Areas That Should Be Avoided**  
This includes the McNary Wildlife Refuge, wind turbines, historical sites, and landfills. Environmental regulations and economic considerations require that these areas be avoided unless no other reasonable alternative exists.
- Areas That Should Be Avoided**  
Relative areas are wetlands, floodplains, and significant habitat. Going through these areas would require actions to reduce or eliminate negative impacts, resulting in significantly increased project costs.
- Evaluation Areas**  
These areas are being evaluated in-depth. Based on current information, the new highway will likely be located somewhere within these bands unless something critical is discovered.

## Project Timeline

