



Four-laning US Highway 12

August 2011

Phase 7A – Nine Mile Hill to Woodward Canyon Vicinity

Why is WSDOT planning to construct a new US 12 as a four-lane highway near Touchet?

This project is part of a corridor plan to construct US 12 as a four-lane highway from the Snake River and the junction with SR 124 to the City of Walla Walla. This corridor carries over ten million tons of cargo every year; since 1991 it has experienced over 1,000 collisions resulting in over 400 injuries and 30 deaths.

Four-laning the existing US 12 in its current location is not feasible near Touchet due to numerous residential and commercial accesses. A new four-lane highway to the north of the existing highway will be safer and less congested.

The End Result

Phase 7A of the corridor project will build a new US 12 north of the existing highway from Nine Mile Hill to the vicinity of Woodward Canyon. This five mile section will be constructed to current standards with four lanes, wide median, and new intersections at Nine Mile Hill and Touchet North Road.

Project Benefits

Increased safety. The four-lane highway will reduce the risk of collisions by eliminating driveways, reducing the number of intersections, and separating opposing lanes of traffic with a median. The intersections will be constructed to current highway design standards with appropriate acceleration and deceleration lanes.

Relieved congestion. A four-lane highway will provide an area for passing between two-lane segments of US 12. Fewer intersections will also mean less delay as drivers will no longer have to slow for vehicles to turn left or right off into or out of residents, farms, or businesses.

Freight mobility. Building a four-lane highway will ease conflicts between slow moving trucks and passenger vehicles. Commercial trucks make up as much as 19 percent of the traffic, causing slowdowns and safety concerns.

Construction Timeline

Currently, only design and partial right of way acquisition is funded. Environmental Documentation is complete. Design and partial right of way will be completed early in 2012. No construction or remaining right of way funding is available at this time.

Project Cost Estimate

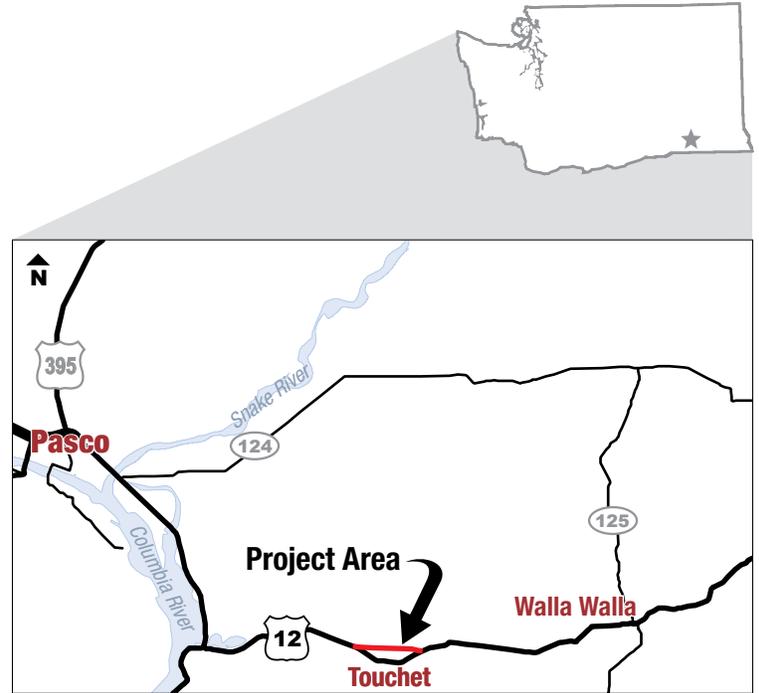
Estimated Total Project Cost \$74.0 million

Note: This estimate includes engineering, right of way, and construction costs.

Project Design \$3.1 million - Funded

Right of Way - Partial Funding - \$2.1 million

Construction - Unfunded

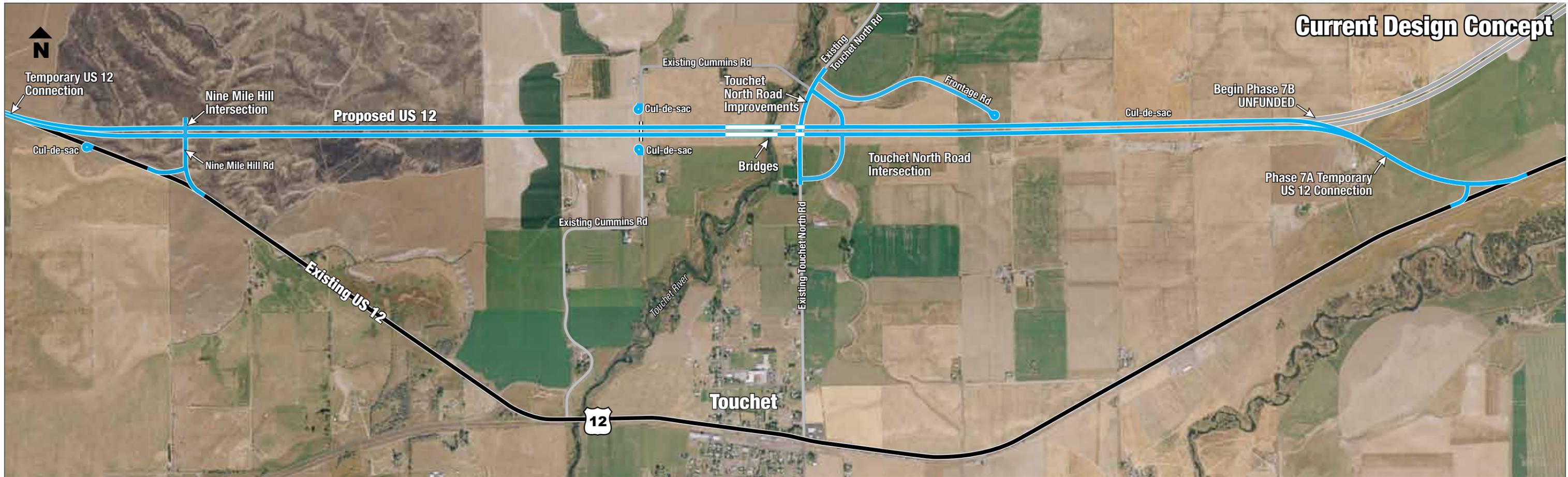


Facing south towards the community of Touchet.

The US Highway 12 Coalition

The US Highway 12 Coalition is an alliance of public and private organizations working to four-lane US Highway 12 from Burbank to Walla Walla.





Not to Scale

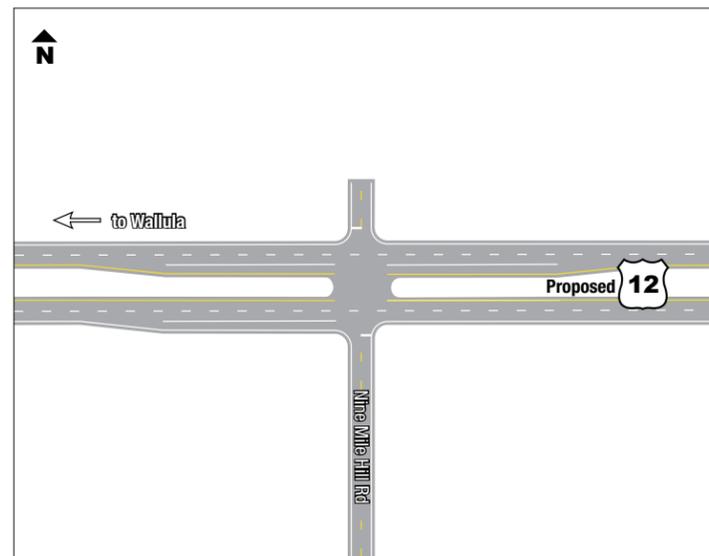
Design Information

This project will construct a four-lane highway north of Touchet. This highway will temporarily connect to the existing US 12 in the Nine Mile Hill vicinity to the west and the Woodward Canyon vicinity to the east. Crews will construct bridges over the Touchet River and Touchet North Road. The total length of the project, including temporary connections, is 5 miles.

Intersections at Touchet North Road and the Nine Mile Hill vicinity will provide access to the new highway. Two cul-de-sacs on Cummins Road, at the new highway, will provide room for oversized vehicles to turn around.

The new Nine Mile Hill Road will provide access from the new highway to the bypassed section of existing US 12. Touchet North Road and a short connector road will provide access to the east. Crews will build a cul-de-sac on existing US 12, near the west temporary connection.

Proposed Nine Mile Hill Intersection

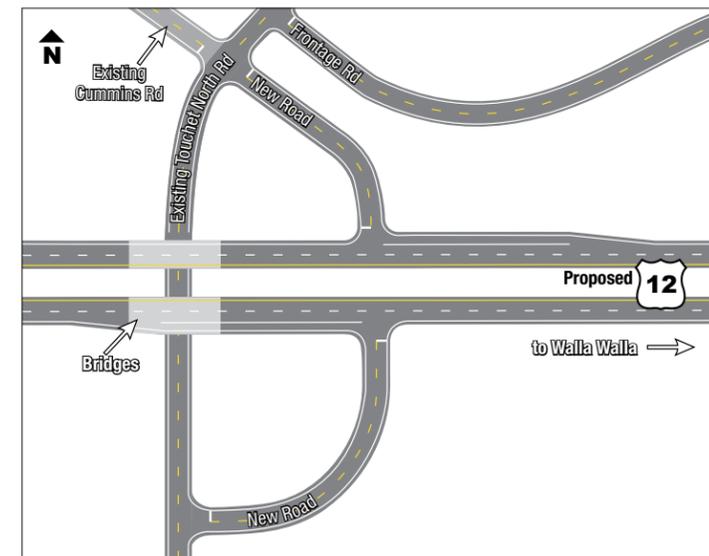


Not to Scale

This intersection will provide access to and from the new highway. On the south side of the proposed highway, Nine Mile Hill Road will connect to the existing US 12. On the north side an approach will provide farm access.

This intersection will have a right turn lane for eastbound, a left turn lane for westbound, and an acceleration lane from Nine Mile Hill Road to westbound US 12.

Proposed Touchet North Road Intersection



Not to Scale

To provide access to and from Touchet North Road and US 12, WSDOT will construct a new road from the intersection of Touchet North Road and Cummins Road southeasterly to form a T-intersection with the new westbound highway. They will also construct a new road from Touchet North Road, south of US 12, to form a T-intersection with the new eastbound highway. To provide access to property north of the highway, a mile long frontage road will follow the highway east.

The intersections will have a right turn lane for eastbound and westbound.

Environmental Information

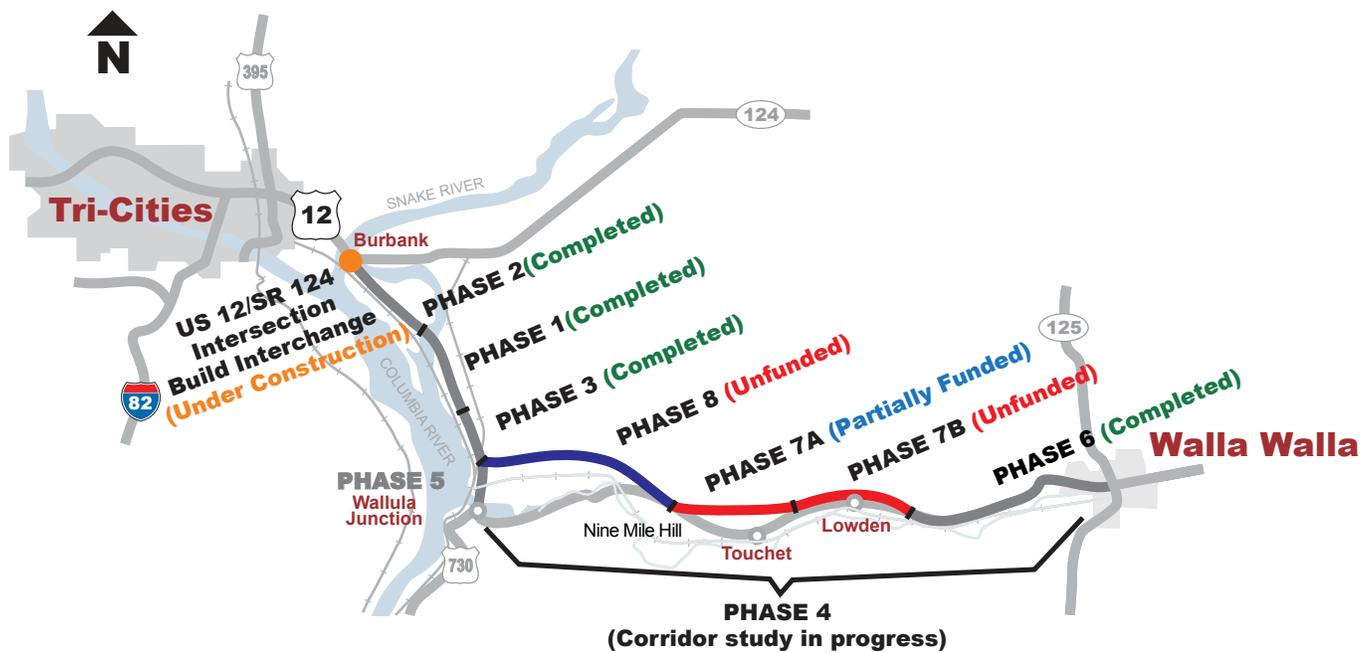
Floodplain Preservation and Wildlife Movement Through Bridge Construction

The Phase 7A project crosses the Touchet River floodplains. Historically, substantial flooding has happened within this floodplain near the Touchet River. The proposed project will span most of the Touchet River floodway with twin bridges approaching 1,000 feet in length. Actual structure lengths and locations to be determined based on a future floodway study. WSDOT is committed to maintaining the current capacity of the Touchet River floodplain and will develop a final design that will not impact the floodplain capacity.

Another project objective is to reduce the number of wildlife/vehicle collisions (WVC) by improving the highway's permeability. The large bridges needed to span the Touchet River floodway will also promote wildlife movement between habitats found within and adjacent to the lower reach of the river and its confluence with the Walla Walla River.

Roadside Vegetation

WSDOT will implement an Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM) Program to establish low-maintenance, beneficial vegetation, and to suppress unwanted plants from establishing along the highway. The IVM Program lowers WSDOT's long-term maintenance costs and greatly reduces the need for chemical weed control.



What has been spent so far?

- Phase 1 – COMPLETED - August 2004**
Four-lane McNary Pool to Attalia
Total Project Cost \$11.2 million
- Phase 2 – COMPLETED - November 2005**
Four-lane SR 124 to McNary Pool
Total Project Cost \$12.1 million
- Phase 3 – COMPLETED - October 2007**
Four-lane Attalia Vicinity
Total Project Cost \$16.0 million
- Phase 4 – IN PROCESS - Spring 2004 to Fall 2010**
Walla Walla Junction to Walla Walla Corridor Study
Estimated Total Project Cost \$5.4 million
- Phase 5 – COMPLETED - Fall 2009**
Attalia Vicinity to US 730 – Preliminary Design Only
Total Cost \$0.8 million
- Phase 6 – COMPLETED - Summer 2010**
Four-lane Frenchtown Vicinity to Walla Walla
Estimated Total Project Cost \$51.9 million

- US 12/SR 124 Intersection – UNDER CONSTRUCTION**
Build new interchange at US 12 and SR 124
Build new overpass at Humorist Road
Estimated Total Project Cost \$22.3 million

What would it cost?

- Phase 7A – DESIGN FUNDED - \$3.1 million**
RIGHT OF WAY - Partial Funding - \$2.1 million
CONSTRUCTION - Unfunded
Four-lane Nine Mile Hill to Woodward Canyon vicinity
Estimated Total Project Cost \$74.0 million
 - Phase 7B – UNFUNDED**
Four-lane Woodward Canyon Vicinity to Frenchtown Vicinity
Build new interchange at US 12 and US 730
Estimated Total Project Cost \$53.0 million
 - Phase 8 – UNFUNDED**
Four-lane Walla Walla to Nine Mile Hill
Estimated Total Project Cost \$235 million
- Note: These estimates include engineering, right of way, and construction costs.

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