



# Port of Benton

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## Port of Benton Railroad

Port of Benton has received \$2.4 million in new state funding for improvements to the Port-owned rail line, thanks to a state capital request advanced by the 8th legislative district team of Reps. Barnard and Connors and Sen. Boehnke and funds from the freight improvement rail program. The Port has requested an additional \$8 million in federal railroad grants.

Port of Benton's 16-mile Southern Connection Rail Line runs from Center Parkway in Kennewick to Horn Rapids Road in north Richland.

The railroad serves Port of Benton's and City of Richland's industrial properties and the Hanford site.

The Port's rail supports two Class I railroads, Union Pacific and BNSF Railway, that serve multiple customers along the track and ship over 1.3 million tons of freight annually – the second most tonnage of any short-line track in the state.

The Port received the rail line in 1998 from the Department of Energy and, in June 2022, regained direct oversight of the rail line from the Port's prior short-line tenant.

Rail improvements are needed to the track and crossings to enhance safety and decrease the time required for trains to enter and exit the industrial track. These improvements will allow additional rail cars to pass daily, increasing commerce and reducing reliance on trucks and the increased carbon emissions large trucks bring to the region.

The Port replaced the rail crossings at SR 224 / Van Giesen and Swift Blvd. / Cemetery Drive in 2022 and has plans to replace the SR 240 / Horn Rapids Road crossing and the Saint St. and Airport Way crossings in 2024.

The Port plans to begin installation of new rail ties immediately. This work will allow trains to travel at an increased speed, which will enhance safety at rail crossings.



## Commissioner's Message

Hope and promise spring anew this season as the Port staff and community are seeing the fruits of meticulous planning, wise spending and diligent labor. The most noteworthy and visible projects are:

- New rail crossings at SR 224 / Van Giesen St. and Swift Blvd. / Cemetery Rd.
- Richland Airport Lighting Replacement Project
- White Bluffs Center (future home of the WSU Hanford History Project archives)
- Signed purchase agreement for 150-acres of land in north Horn Rapids with Atlas Agro
- Crow Butte Park electrical upgrade and two new contactless pay stations

Washington VERTICAL continues to fulfill its purpose to **accelerate the transition to clean, renewable and non-emitting energy production sources by 2025 through advanced nuclear power technologies.** Our region's ability to collaborate, plan and execute a vision is what continually sets us apart to bring economic growth to our communities, where we envision a transition from clean up to clean energy!

Recent state and federal funding, along with local partnerships, will enable the Port to execute imperative infrastructure improvements on the north Richland rail line and at the Prosser and Richland Airports.

**It's my honor to serve on the Port of Benton Commission** for a Port that teams with industry, education and workforce partners, along with regional partners, including the county, cities, chambers, Visit Tri-Cities, Prosser Economic Development Association, TRIDEC and state and congressional offices on transformational efforts to benefit our community and beyond.



Christy Rasmussen  
Commission President

# TENANT SPOTLIGHT

## Buckskin Golf Course

Established in 1998, Buckskin Golf Club is locally owned and operated by Richland native Jeff Marcum.

Buckskin is a nine-hole golf course located nearby Port of Benton's Richland Airport. With six par-4, one par-5 and two par-3 holes, the course is a fast and fun nine holes ideal for players of all levels. The golf club also features a putting and driving range and adult golf leagues. Buckskin offers a variety of membership options for frequent players.

Marcum, a 25-year member of the PGA, is available for lessons and runs four junior golf camps throughout the summer for children ages 3 to 18. For more information, visit [BuckskinGolfClub.com](http://BuckskinGolfClub.com).



## Northwest Golf Cars

Northwest Golf Cars has moved to 2579 Stevens Drive in Richland, a Port-owned facility, during a year-long renovation of its building in Kennewick.

The new location provides ample space for a fleet of new and pre-owned golf cars, accessories, parts and a busy service department. Cars that can accommodate two to six passengers are available to rent for special events.

Northwest Golf Cars is open Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Check out their inventory at [NorthwestGolfCars.com](http://NorthwestGolfCars.com).



PORT OF BENTON HOME BUSINESS

MAINTENANCE REQUEST

Port Tenants  
For maintenance needs, go to our website at [PortofBenton.com](http://PortofBenton.com) and submit a request form (found in the upper right corner) to get in the queue.

Maintenance Request

## Communication Awards

The Washington Airport Management Association selected the Richland Airport as its Project of the Year for the Electrical Replacement Project.

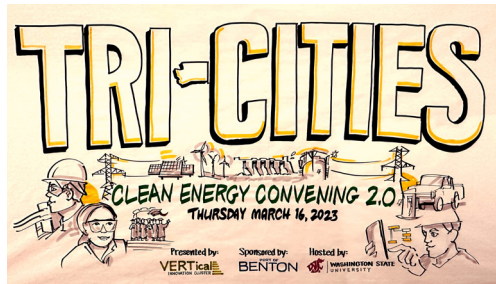
The \$3.2 million project was fully funded by the Federal Aviation Administration. Replacing the electrical system required strategic planning of phased runway and taxiway closures between July and November 2022 to minimize disruptions to airport users and the community.

Port of Benton also received a Community Outreach Award from the Washington Public Ports Association for the Van Giesen Railroad Crossing Replacement Project.



Due to the nature of the work, the SR 224 / Van Giesen intersection was closed from noon on Thursday, August 18 through early Monday, August 22, 2022.

The Port shared regular updates and informative alerts with the community throughout the project.



## Clean Energy Sector Convening 2.0

Regional clean energy leaders came together for Clean Energy Convening 2.0 in March to explore collaboration opportunities and discuss regional efforts to advance net-zero initiatives.

The working session was hosted by Washington VERTICAL and included updates on the state of

next-generation nuclear reactors, net-zero labs, hydrogen, energy storage, transportation electrification and other clean energy initiatives. Washington State Department of Commerce provided an overview of the state's investment in innovation clusters like Washington VERTICAL ([WashingtonVERTical.com](http://WashingtonVERTical.com)).

Team members and partners highlighted VERTICAL projects to secure capital and grants, advance the clean energy market, accelerate the nuclear supply chain, establish a Northwest Nuclear Quality Management Center of Excellence, ready nuclear suppliers, prepare the advanced nuclear-skilled workforce, secure a next-generation reactor in the Pacific Northwest, and advocate for nuclear energy.

The VERTICAL team also premiered the "This is the Place" animation, which highlights the vision of creating an advanced clean energy park to accelerate the nation's clean energy future.



## Commissioners



**Christy Rasmussen**  
Commission President



**Roy Keck**  
Commission Vice President



**Lori Stevens**  
Commission Secretary

## Executive Director



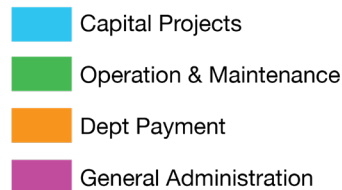
**Diahann Howard, PPM\***

## 2023 Projected Budget of \$14.8 Million

### Income



### Expense



# PORT KUDOS CORNER: *John Alley*



Facilities Supervisor, John Alley joined the Port in 2013 as a pesticide-insecticide applicator and now oversees operations at Crow Butte Park.

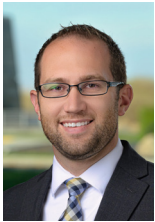
John is a Richland native, attending Richland High School and Columbia Basin College.

Prior to joining the Port, John worked at Wood's Nursery and Landscaping Co. for 28 years. Before Wood's, John spent five years owning and operating a tanning salon.

John is married to his wonderful wife, Marian, and they have four children and four grandchildren. In his spare time, John enjoys boating, fishing, camping and traveling.

The Port would like to recognize John for 10 years of service and thank him for his commitment and dedication!

## Welcome to the Port of Benton Team



**Quentin Wright** has joined the Port of Benton as Airport Manager for the port's Prosser and Richland airports.

His responsibilities include managing overall safe operations projects, master plans and lease administration for both airports. With experience in hangar lease management, and property and aircraft fleet maintenance, Quentin brings an expansive array of talents and skills to the Port.



**Jeff Lubeck** has joined the Port of Benton as Director of Finance.

Jeff's responsibilities include overall administration of the port's financial operations, office administration, management of employee payroll, benefits, hiring and training activities. His other duties include developing and administering the annual budget, monitoring and reporting financial performance, and overseeing the financial activities of grants and capital projects.



**Bryan Bell** has joined the Port of Benton as Construction Project Manager.

Bryan's responsibilities include project management for new construction, overseeing improvements to Port-owned rail and barge facilities and guidance on Port projects.

He brings substantial construction management experience, including 15 years of owning and operating a construction business. Bryan's work history includes project management of residential and commercial projects, business and customer relations, sales, marketing, payroll and purchasing.

## Calendar of Events

4th of July	Port Office Closed	July 4
Bob Ferguson Memorial Event	White Bluffs Storage Facility	July 6
Commission Meeting	Port Administration Building	July 12
Tenant Appreciation BBQ	Port Administration Building	August 3
Commission Meeting	Port Administration Building	August 9

*Commission meetings are open to the public and held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:30 a.m. Special meetings and alternate schedules are posted online at [portofbenton.com/commission](http://portofbenton.com/commission).*