

ConnectOregon II



Co-Applicant NW Container Services (NWCS)

Project Name Morrow Multimodal Rail Logistics Center

Grant Amount \$7,926.626.40

Background Port of Morrow was served by a mainline switch meaning trains blocked the high capacity mainline while trains were entering and exiting the Port. Existing businesses and future growth were threatened by this operating scenario which was not sustainable. The slow downs on the mainline affected trains in each direction in the busy corridor between Hinkle Yard and Portland reducing mainline velocity and capacity and affecting train movements statewide. There was also no intermodal capability at Port of Morrow. NWCS was interested in initiating service which would move solid waste for the Finley Buttes landfill eastbound and export containers for regional shippers westbound.

Solution Develop a mainline siding where entire trains could exit and enter the mainline at higher speeds. Develop associated yard tracks for the intermodal service. Make it expandable for other future development at Port of Morrow.

Outcome Port of Morrow commissioned two Economic Impact Analyses; one in 2008 and one in 2013. The 2013 Analysis concludes the following¹:

Comparative findings indicate the following:

- Port-related businesses now account for over \$1.6 billion in annual economic output in 2011, up from about \$850 million in 2006, and increase of about 88%
- The share of economic output within Morrow and Umatilla counties attributed to Port-related businesses has increased from 15% in 2006 to 22% in 2011
- The share of direct employment that is considered to be Port-related accounts for 59% of all jobs in Morrow County, up from 36% in 2006
- “There are \$66.8 million in public infrastructure investments and \$386 million in private capital investments underway at the Port of Morrow

The public investments which includes *ConnectOregon* funded projects continue to generate privately funded economic development in the Port region above what was documented in the most recent study.

¹ Economic Impact Analysis June 11, 2013, FCS Group
<http://www.portofmorrow.com/documents/PortEconomicImpactReport.pdf>