



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Port Commissioners approve agreement for Lewiston telecommunications facilities**

Lewiston, ID – Port of Lewiston Commissioners approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Port of Whitman for telecommunications facilities in North Lewiston at a special meeting, held February 25 at the Port of Lewiston Administrative Office.

Under the agreement, the Port of Whitman will construct and administer a fiber optic line and facilities from the state line on Highway 128 through North Lewiston to the Clearwater River Memorial Bridge. The Port of Lewiston will pay \$30,000 toward the construction.

The agreement is for a specific fiber optic line in North Lewiston. Its creation will provide the Port of Lewiston the opportunity to construct a fiber optic system to serve facilities in North Lewiston and to possibly expand fiber optic line into Lewiston in the future.

“This is what ports do, we develop infrastructure to support, attract and grow businesses in order to build a stronger economy,” said Port Manager David Doeringsfeld. “In today’s world, businesses must have adequate bandwidth and redundancy to remain competitive.”

This is a “dark fiber” project, meaning that the ports are partnering to construct fiber optic lines, but the private sector Internet providers will provide service to customers.

“This will be an open access fiber optic highway, accessible to all service providers on an equal basis and at an equal price,” said Doeringsfeld. “It will create an even playing field for service providers with the ultimate goal of vastly improving Internet speeds and reliability in our community.”

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