

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbia Development Authority Hosts Ribbon Cutting and Symbolic Groundbreaking Ceremony to Celebrate Growth and Honor History

Columbia Development Authority Property, September 23, 2025 — The Columbia Development Authority is comprised of five cooperating members: The Port of Morrow, Port of Umatilla, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, and the counties of Morrow and Umatilla. All five members of the CDA proudly hosted a ribbon cutting and symbolic groundbreaking ceremony on September 23rd to celebrate a new chapter of growth and progress at its historic property.

The event brought together community members and local leaders in a joyful celebration that honored both the future of the Columbia Development Authority and the rich legacy of the site. Guests gathered to commemorate construction of a new road and recognize the dedicated work behind preserving the property's deep historical significance—most notably its ties to the Oregon Trail.

"I'm a strong supporter of infrastructure and was privileged to say a few words about the same as well as acknowledging that during the time of the Oregon Trail, there were people in wagons heading West and other people watching as wagons moved from the East onto their homelands," said Kim Puzey, Columbia Development Authority Board Chair.

"This ceremony is more than just a marker of development—it's a tribute to Oregon's history and the shared vision members of the CDA have for economic growth in our region," said Greg Smith, Executive Director of the Columbia Development Authority.

CDA recently selected Tapani, Inc. as the general contractor for their road construction project. A team of highly recommended volunteers conducted a very professional and thorough process to make this selection. The CDA anticipates road construction to begin later this year.

"Tapani, Inc. will source all of their materials within a 4-to-5-mile radius of the CDA industrial site, which is the spirit of economic development," said Fred Ziari, Columbia Development Authority Engineer of Record.

"Opening up this entire region for economic development is going to be huge for Umatilla and Morrow Counties and CTUIR," said John Shafer, Columbia Development Authority Board Vice-Chair.



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