

**CITY OF WALLA WALLA  
2015 CDBG ANNUAL ACTION PLAN**

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**1. Introduction**

The 2015 CDBG Annual Action Plan (AAP) will continue the activities selected for the 2014 Action Plan.

**2. Annual Goals and Objectives**

Sort Order	Goal Name	Start Year	End Year	Category	Location	Needs Addressed	Funding	Goal Outcome Indicator
1	Promote the Preservation Development and Sustainability of Affordable Housing	2015	2016	Affordable Housing	City wide, targeted to CT's 9205 and 9206	Substandard Housing	CDBG	Houses Repaired
2	Promote Healthy, Vibrant Neighborhoods	2015	2016	Non-Housing Community Development	CT 9205 and 9206	Health, safety, transportation	CDBG	Park Improvements
3	Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for All Citizens of Walla Walla	2015	2016	Non-Housing Community Development	City wide, targeted to CT 9205 and 9206	Health, safety, transportation	CDBG	Sidewalks and ADA Ramps
4	Support the Retention and Creation of Employment Opportunities	2015	2016	Non-Housing Community Development	City wide	Employment Opportunities	CDBG	Jobs Created
5	Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for All Citizens of Walla Walla	2015	2016	Non-Housing Community Development	City wide	neighborhood revitalization; self-sufficiency	CDBG	Persons and Areas served

### 3. Consultation

When developing the five-year Consolidated Plan, Walla Walla consulted with multiple entities in order to capture a realistic and holistic picture of the nature of the community's housing, homeless, health, and human services delivery systems and unmet needs.

Included were:

- Walla Walla County Department of Community Health
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services , Development Disabilities Administration (WA State DSHS, DDA) - Services for persons with development disabilities
- Washington State Department of Commerce – State of WA Small Cities CDBG program
- Walla Walla Housing Authority – Public housing; Section 8 rental assistance; low and moderate income tax credit housing projects for elderly and families; migrant housing; mixed income homeownership development
- Helpline – A non-profit coordinated entry point for low income persons in need of assistance such as: housing, utility bill payments, food, rental assistance, emergency housing, transportation, prescription assistance, referrals to other human service providers, etc.
- Blue Mountain Action Council - Community Action Agency providing pro bono lawyer referral, adult literacy training, youth and adult employment training , foreclosure counseling, personal finance training, community outreach; referrals, etc.
- Blue Mountain Heart to Heart – Non-profit organization providing HIV/Aids supportive services
- Walla Walla School District – Free and reduced lunch program; opportunities for at-risk youth
- Walla Walla Community College (WWCC)
- Valley Residential Services - Living and community protection services for adults with development disabilities; case management for veterans in transitional housing
- Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) –Services for victims of domestic violence, women's shelter, child daycare, community recreation opportunities
- Walla Walla Council on Homelessness – A fifteen member consortium of homeless services agencies and advocates formed in response to the direction of the federal Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act; one of the goals is to address local governance of our homeless system of care.
- City of Walla Walla departments and divisions
- School District
- Community Networks

The contributions of these entities helped formulate the 2014 Action Plan; **the needs and the activities identified for 2014 remain applicable in this, the second year of the Consolidated Plan.** As a government agency and a provider of municipal services, the city continues its

partnership with other agencies, organizations, residents and other stakeholders to identify and address community needs and resources.

#### **4. Citizen Participation**

Citizen participation for the 2015 AAP includes the outreach and comments gleaned during the development of the Consolidated Plan; continued contact with agencies and other entities throughout the year; a public hearing before City Council on May 13, 2015; and a 30 day comment period on the proposed action plan, July 10, 2015- August 10, 2015. In addition, neighborhood revitalization efforts and outreach into the neighborhoods in the target census tracts provide an invaluable source of information as to the condition and needs of those areas. On-site CDBG funded activities are also a catalyst for increased citizen participation.

Two public comments have been received on the proposed 2015 AAP:

- May 13, 2015 public hearing: Tim Meliah- Walla Walla Youth Alliance:  
Request for \$70,000 CDBG funding from 2015 allocation, and \$70,000 CDBG funding from 2016 allocation to assist with the development and construction of a 6-bed youth shelter. The request was followed up with a written request. Staff met with Tim Meliah, and with Kathy Covey, Blue Mountain Action Council, to discuss the status of funding and construction schedules. The project has a two-year commitment for operating funds; only a portion of the funding of the \$1.9 development/construction budget has been secured. Confirmation of the other funding sources is expected in late Fall 2015. CDBG funding would not be needed until late summer 2016. By that time the status of the balance of the funding will be known. The project has been deemed worthy of consideration for the 2016 and 2017 Action Plans.
- The second request was to redirect the \$40,000 allocated for the picnic shelter at Washington Park (CDBG grant years 2014 and 2015) to a community room for youth to be an addition to the city fire station. The proposal was in the very early conceptual stages. Those making the inquiry understood the need for additional planning before the project could be considered. There is no plan to divert funds away from the Washington Park facility, which will receive \$20,000 of the 2014 CDBG allocation, and \$20,000 from the 2015 allocation.

## 5. Expected Resources for 2015

Program	Source of Funds	Uses of Funds	Annual Allocation: \$	Program Income: \$	Prior year's resources: \$	Total: \$	Expected Amount Available Remainder of ConPlan: \$
CDBG	Public-Federal	Admin & Planning Public Facilities Housing Rehab Sidewalks ADA Ramps Public Services	\$381,892	\$0	\$0	\$381,892	\$1,154,424

Funds will be used to make comprehensive improvements in targeted neighborhoods and will leverage additional resources such as utility company weatherization programs; lead-based paint remediation; safe routes to school; other public and private resources.

## 6. 2015 Projects:

The priority needs identified for year two of the Consolidated Plan the same needs identified and addressed in the 2014 AAP. The National Objective addressed is benefit to low-moderate income persons.

#	Project Name	Goals Supported	Needs Addressed	CDBG Funding	Target Areas
1	Home Repair	Affordable Housing; Neighborhoods; Quality of Life; Economy	Substandard Housing	\$58,834	CTs 9205 and 9206
2	Sidewalk Improvements	Neighborhoods; Quality of Life	Health; Safety; Transportation	\$89,400	CTs 9205 and 9206
3	ADA Ramps	Neighborhoods; Quality of Life	Health; Safety; Transportation	\$80,000	CTs 9205 and 9206
4	Park Improvements	Neighborhoods; Quality of Life	Neighborhood Improvements	\$20,000	CTs 9205 and 9206
5	Public Services	Quality of Life	Self Sufficiency	\$57,280	City Wide
6	Planning	All	All	\$38,189	City Wide
7	Administration	All	All	\$38,189	City Wide

**Home repair** has been determined to be a priority a need. It can be leveraged by partnerships with other programs such as utility provider incentives and weatherization projects, both of which save energy and reduce housing cost burden. Further, it provides an opportunity for

living wage jobs. Home repair often spawns other housing improvements in the neighborhood. Another plus is that the program is available to the resident at no or low cost, and payment maybe deferred until the property transfers ownership. At that time funds are returned allowing the program to be self-perpetuating.

**Estimated number of homes repaired: 5**

**Sidewalk improvements and ADA ramps** are priority projects because they provide an opportunity for safety, mobility, accessibility, recreation and neighborhood improvement. They are particularly essential for elderly with physical limitations, for the disabled; and for mothers and fathers with strollers. ADA ramps provide a universal benefit, while sidewalks provide area-wide benefit in low-income neighborhoods. Sidewalks can be a catalyst for housing repair and other neighborhood enhancements. The survey and GIS mapping done for the sidewalks and ADA ramps projects revealed a need for approximately 26 miles of sidewalks and ADA improvements in Census Tracts 9205 and 9206 alone. The neighbors in those two Tracts have identified areas where the need for improvements is greatest for safety reasons.

**Estimated lineal feet of sidewalk: 890 LF**

**Estimated number of ADA ramps: 31**

**Park improvements** were identified at a neighborhood meeting as a priority need. Park improvements compliment other park amenities, and provide a sense of place where people gather and build relationships. That, in turn, can lead to a stronger neighborhood. Park enhancements promote healthy activity that can combat the ever-growing incidence of obesity. According to the Walla Walla Health Department, a primary focus of the Walla Walla County Health Improvement Plan is reducing obesity through physical activity and nutrition. The 2014 Action Plan allocated \$20,000 for a picnic shelter at Washington Park. That amount is insufficient for both design and construction of the facility. Therefore, \$20,000 of 2015 funds is designated for that project.

**Estimated improvement: 1- Washington Park**

**Public services** can provide the means to revitalize neighborhoods and to work toward self-sufficiency. Public service examples include: job skill training; literacy programs; neighborhood clean-up; afterschool activities and food banks to list a few.

**Estimated number of persons served: 1,010.**

## 7. Geographic area of assistance distribution

CDBG Activities will be targeted to Census Tracts 9205 and 9206. Both Census Tracts are low income and have a minority concentration. It is estimated that 36.25% of funds will go to Census Tract 9205. Census Tract 9206 will also receive approximately 36.25% of the funds. At least one half of the public service allocation will be focused in the target neighborhoods.

### Geographic Distribution

Target Area	Percentage of Funds
CT 9205	36.25%
CT 9206	36.25%
City wide	27.5%

### Rationale for the priorities for allocating investments geographically

Data for Census Tracts 9205 and 9206 indicate a high need for investment. The data show higher poverty rates, lower incomes and property values, higher unemployment, and minority concentration. Neighborhoods in these Census Tracts have received some improvements over the past 5 years, but the need is still great.

Public service allocations and CDBG planning and administration costs total 35% of the CDBG funds available. Those categories apply citywide. Guided by the priority needs as identified by residents of the neighborhoods, planned activities will be chosen to enhance quality of life. Every effort will be made to leverage CDBG funding with other public and private resources to bring about comprehensive, positive neighborhood revitalization.

## 8. Affordable housing

One Year Goals for the Number of Households to be Supported	
Homeless	0
Non-Homeless	0
Special-Needs	0
Total	0

One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through	
Rental Assistance	0
The Production of New Units	0

<b>One Year Goals for the Number of Households Supported Through</b>	
Rehab of Existing Units	5
Acquisition of Existing Units	0
Total	5

## **9. Public housing**

The city will continue to be an active partner of the Walla Walla Housing Authority and support its development of affordable housing. No specific activity planned.

### **Actions to encourage public housing residents to become more involved in management and participate in homeownership**

The housing authority offers self-sufficiency training and is pursuing funding options to staff a position to advance its efforts.

### **If the PHA is designated as troubled, describe the manner in which financial assistance will be provided or other assistance**

N/A. The Walla Walla Housing Authority is rated a High Performer by HUD.

## **10. Homeless and other special needs activities**

Walla Walla County Department of Community Health administers the Walla Walla County 10-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness, to which the City of Walla Walla is a signatory. Walla Walla's 2014 AAP committed CDBG funds toward the cost of the update of the 10-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness. In 2015, the city will continue to align city policies and actions with the strategies of the 10-Year Plan to Reduce Homelessness. Walla Walla County has announced that the 10-year Plan to End Homelessness will be changed to a 5-year Plan.

## **11. Barriers to affordable housing**

The city plans to review building codes; fees and charges; zoning and development ordinances; and other policies to identify opportunities to ameliorate barriers to affordable housing.

## 12. Other actions

**Actions planned to address obstacles to meeting underserved need** - The city will continue the dialogue with the public and service providers to ensure that City policies and practices are in concert with community efforts to overcome obstacles to employment and housing.

**Actions planned to foster and maintain affordable housing** - The city will communicate regularly with current and potential property owners and managers to identify potential barriers to maintaining affordable housing and use that information to inform annual updates of the consolidated plan and potential revisions to city policies and practices.

**Actions planned to reduce lead-based paint hazards** - The city will include lead-based-paint hazard information in community education and outreach. When undertaking housing rehab, the City will incorporate remediation of lead-based paint hazards, if conditions dictate.

**Actions planned to reduce the number of poverty-level families** - The focus on reducing housing cost burden and increasing literacy and employability levels of low-income residents, will target reduction in the number of poverty-level families.

**Actions planned to develop institutional structure** - Together with community partners, the city will improve institutional structure by defining which services are best delivered by government and which by the private for-profit and nonprofit sectors, and by facilitating those efforts.

**Actions planned to enhance coordination between public and private housing and social service agencies** - The need for enhanced coordination is critical and will require intense collaborative planning and ongoing communication. Actions taken by the city in developing the Consolidated Plan, such as conducting outreach and forming citizen input committees will be continued in a somewhat altered format. Actions to improve coordination will be integrated with the Coordinated Entry that will be newly required by the State for the Homeless Housing funds. Additionally, collaborative planning will take place among key stakeholders to plan and implement diverse methods of sharing information; methods may include web-based, social media, written materials, and radio outreach. To ensure inclusiveness, information will be shared in English and Spanish and efforts made to accommodate information sharing with special needs populations that may require alternative methods, such as for those who are visually or hearing impaired. This will be an ongoing effort over the span of the Five Year Consolidated Plan; initial steps will take place in 2014.

## Program Specific Requirements

### AP-90 Program Specific Requirements – 91.220(l)(1,2,4)

Introduction: N/A

#### Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)

##### Reference 24 CFR 91.220(l)(1)

Projects planned with all CDBG funds expected to be available during the year are identified in the Projects Table. The following identifies program income that is available for use that is included in projects to be carried out.

1. The total amount of program income that will have been received before the start of the next program year and that has not yet been reprogrammed	0
2. The amount of proceeds from section 108 loan guarantees that will be used during the year to address the priority needs and specific objectives identified in the grantee's strategic plan.	0
3. The amount of surplus funds from urban renewal settlements	0
4. The amount of any grant funds returned to the line of credit for which the planned use has not been included in a prior statement or plan	0
5. The amount of income from float-funded activities	0
<b>Total Program Income:</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Other CDBG Requirements

1. The amount of urgent need activities	0
2. The estimated percentage of CDBG funds that will be used for activities that benefit persons of low and moderate income. Overall Benefit - A consecutive period of one, two or three years may be used to determine that a minimum overall benefit of 70% of CDBG funds is used to benefit persons of low and moderate income. Specify the years covered that include this Annual Action Plan.	0.00%

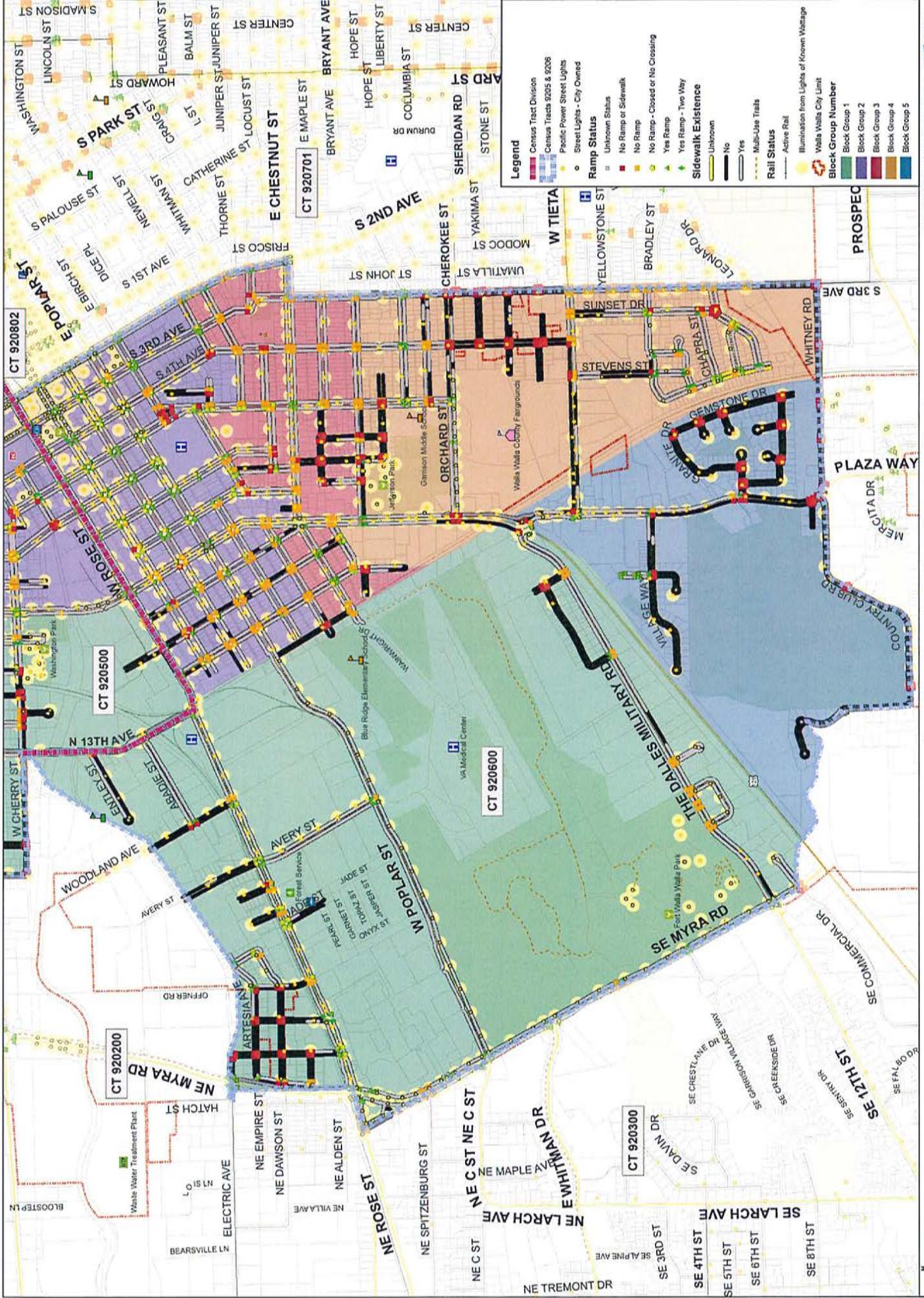
## Appendices

- A. Map - Census Tract 9205
- B. Map - Census Tract 9206
- C. Map – City Census Tracts
- D. Map – 2014-2015 Sidewalk & ADA Improvements
  - Priority 1 – Block 3 Census Tract 9205 & Main Street ADA Ramps
  - Priority 2 – Block 2 Census Tract 9205

APPENDIX A:  
Map - Census Tract 9205



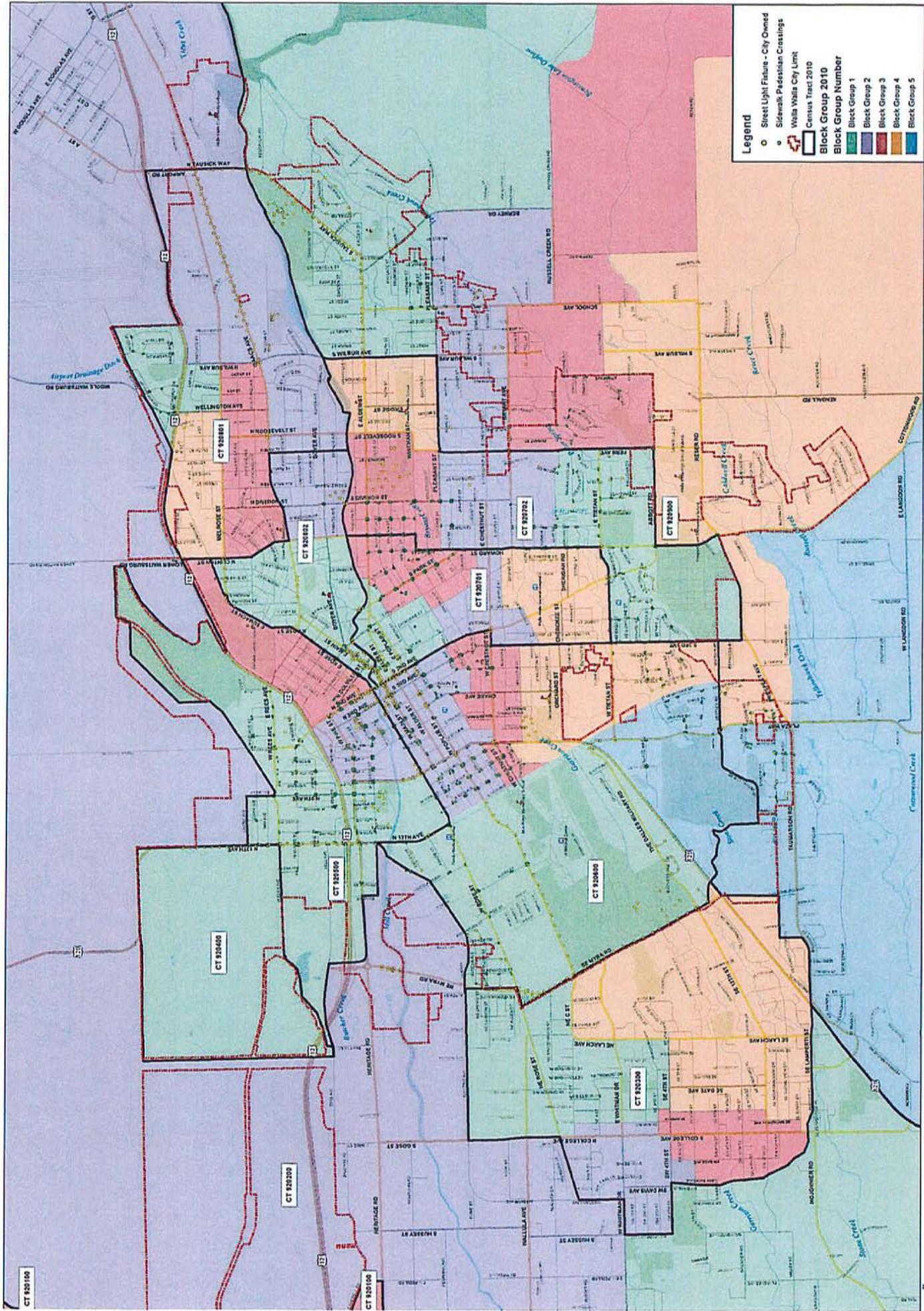
APPENDIX B:  
Map - Census Tract 9206



**Legend**

- Census Tract Division
- Census Tracts 9205 & 9206
- Pacific Power Street Lights
- Street Lights - City Owned
- Ramp Status
  - Unknown Status
  - No Ramp or Sidewalk
  - No Ramp
  - No Ramp - Closed or No Crossing
  - Yes Ramp
  - Yes Ramp - Two Way
- Sidewalk Existence
  - Unknown
  - No
  - Yes
  - Multi-Use Trails
- Rail Status
  - Active Rail
  - Illumination from Lights of Known Waitege
- Block Group Number
  - Block Group 1
  - Block Group 2
  - Block Group 3
  - Block Group 4
  - Block Group 5

APPENDIX C:  
Map – City Census Tracts



## **APPENDIX D:**

**Map – 2014-2015 Sidewalk & ADA Improvements**

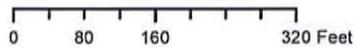
**Priority 1 – Block 3 Census Tract 9205 & Main Street ADA Ramps**

**Priority 2 – Block 2 Census Tract 9205**

# PRIORITY AREA #1



Date: 3/6/2015



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# PRIORITY AREA #2

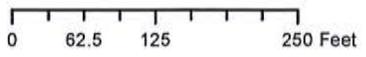


### LEGEND

-  NEW SIDEWALK
-  ADA IMPROVEMENT



Date: 3/6/2015



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