

# Regional Academies

The Public Works Board conducted four regional academies across the state. Leaders and managers from local governments, special purpose districts, regional associations, economic development councils, tribes, ports, and special purpose districts attended. Participants engaged in identifying local issues and potential solutions, ultimately determining issues that needed specialized attention (see bulleted issues below). Private consultants volunteered to sponsor the academies, which allowed for participants to attend at no cost. Speakers were recruited from federal, state, and local agencies and organizations. For more information on the academies, please visit our [website](#).

*The Board's first academy for Southwest WA was held in November 2012 in Vancouver. Focused attention is needed on the following:*

- *Tax Increment Financing*
- *Regulatory Streamlining*
- *Rail Crossings*
- *Defining Infrastructure*



*Mount Vernon, WA was the setting for the Northwest WA Academy, held in February 2013. The following items were identified as needing focused attention:*

- *Permit Processing*
- *Road Maintenance Funding*
- *Storm Water Funding*



*The Southeast WA Academy took place in Walla Walla in May 2013. The Community Economic Revitalization Board joined as co-hosts. Participants identified the issues below as priorities:*

- *Determining LMI (low to-moderate household income) and MHI (median household income)*
- *Transportation*

*The Central WA Academy was held in August 2013 in Yakima. The Community Economic Revitalization Board co-hosted a second time. The following issues were identified as needing follow-up:*

- *Future water supply and availability to meet current demand, water rights, transport*
- *Entrepreneurship*
- *How can a wastewater plant get community support for improvements*
- *Local access roads, funding moving freight and people*
- *Regulatory environment*