



MEDIA RELEASE

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FINAL PIECE OF FUNDING FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS BECOMES REALITY FOR CITY OF REPUBLIC

REPUBLIC—Infrastructure is imperative for any community, and the city of Republic is no exception. After years of planning, and through cooperative efforts of city officials and State and Federal agencies, the city is getting additional funding for improvements to their storm sewer system, the final portion of their infrastructure needs.

Jackie J. Gleason, Washington State Director of USDA Rural Development recently announced the award of loan and grant funds totaling \$730,000 for the storm system project. The funding is being made available through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency in the mission area of USDA Rural Development.

The City of Republic had been informed that the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) had scheduled State Route 20, which runs through downtown Republic, to be re-surfaced in 2001. In order to avoid tearing up the newly re-surfaced downtown stretch of highway, the City Council has worked vigorously over the past two years to pursue the necessary funding so that the water system improvements could be completed first. WSDOT agreed to hold off on their re-surfacing project to allow the community the needed time to acquire the necessary funding to make the improvements. The water system funding has already been secured and this funding represents the final piece of the puzzle and will allow the entire project to be completed in one construction season.

Shirley Couse, Mayor of Republic stated, "It is imperative that this project be concluded in one construction season to keep disruption to the citizens and businesses at a minimum." Now that all the funding is in place, final design can be completed and construction can start as soon as winter is over.

USDA Rural Development serves as the lead federal entity for rural development needs and administers financial and technical assistance through three agencies: Rural Housing Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and Rural Utilities Service. Further information on programs administered by USDA Rural Development can be obtained by contacting any USDA Service Center or by visiting the Washington State USDA Rural Development web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/wa>.

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