

**Current**  
68°F  
89°/53°  
Complete Forecast

**Wed**  
Sunny and very warm  
92°/60°

**Thu**  
Sunshine  
85°/45°

**Fri**  
Partly sunny  
85°/51°



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Sunday, Sep. 13, 2009  
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### Pasco City Council considers consolidation study

By Pratik Joshi, Herald staff writer

The Pasco City Council will consider Monday whether to contribute \$10,000 a year -- potentially for two years -- for a study on consolidating the Tri-Cities.

Earlier this year, a task force of the Three Rivers Community Roundtable -- a group of public and business leaders -- released a report on the possible benefits and disadvantages of regional consolidation, and recommended an independent study to look at the issue.

The proposed two-part study, by the nonprofit William D. Ruckelshaus Center, is expected to cost \$140,000, with costs being shared by the private sector, cities and port districts.

The center, housed jointly at the Daniel J. Evans School of Public Affairs at the University of Washington and Washington State University Extension, is considered a neutral resource for collaborative problem solving.

The council will also decide whether to participate in a study to determine the best possible location for a new bridge on the Columbia River.

The study to be conducted by the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments would cost \$250,000, and about 50 percent of that will come from the Washington Department of Transportation.

The Benton-Franklin Council of Governments recommends that Pasco, like Kennewick and Richland, contribute \$18,750 to share the remainder of the cost.

Other contributors to the study include Benton, Franklin and Walla Walla counties, four port districts, and the Benton-Franklin Council of Governments.

-- Pratik Joshi: 582-1541; pjoshi@tricityherald.com; Business Beat blog at www.tricityherald.com

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OpenEyes wrote on September, 13 7:23 PM:  
If it means this place will finally get some culture in it besides drinking wine and going to sports bars, I'm all for it. How is that Prosser, Walla Walla, Pendleton, and even Dayton have more flair than the 2nd biggest "city" in Eastern Washington?

You're lucky there's a Yakima or Tri-Cities would be the butt of more jokes.

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iamarinerblue13 wrote on September, 13 9:56 AM:

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