



October 20, 2015

KATE BROWN
Governor

Lynn Burditt
Area Manager of the Columbia River Gorge NSA,
USFS
902 Wasco Street
Hood River, OR 97031-3103

Matt Garrett
Director
Oregon Department of Transportation
355 Capitol Street NE, MS 11
Salem, Oregon 97301-3871

Lisa Sumption
Director
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, OR 97301

Todd Davidson
Chief Executive Officer
Travel Oregon
250 Church Street SE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that you have requested that the Historic Columbia River Highway Collaborative be designated as an Oregon Solutions project. After reviewing your request and the assessment summary conducted by Oregon Solutions staff, I feel this project supports Oregon's Sustainable Community Objectives. By this letter I am designating this as an Oregon Solutions project and appointing ***Representative Mark Johnson and Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel*** as the co-conveners who will lead a team of public, private, and civic partners toward innovative solutions to addressing the immediate safety and congestion issues in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

The Columbia River Gorge is a national treasure, and as a result, Congress designated it a National Scenic Area as a means of protection and preservation. This historic scenic highway provides access to the wonders of the Columbia Gorge including its amazing waterfalls and spectacular hiking trails. With its success as a premier tourist attraction comes the obligation to manage the related congestion resulting from the large numbers of visitors in a way that preserves the integrity and values of the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area. The Oregon Solutions approach helps bring together partners in a neutral and collaborative way to address issues and opportunities.

I am pleased to see that you are working collaboratively to bring together partners to address the issues at hand. By integrating and leveraging resources, this project has the potential to insure that the success in attracting visitors to the Gorge can be managed in as safe and responsible way as possible. Please keep the governor's office updated on this effort and thank you for your work and enthusiasm thus far.

Sincerely,

Governor Kate Brown

KB/LH/sb

