

Columbia River Historic Highway Collaborative Meeting NotesTuesday, January 19, 2016, Bonneville Dam

Introduction: *The Historic Columbia River Scenic Highway continues to grow in popularity as does the Columbia River Gorge in general. The Historic Highway and supporting infrastructure, including parking areas on the Historic Highway and on I-84 at Multnomah Falls, have a limited capacity which is often reached. This Oregon Solutions project will identify solutions to some of the most immediate short term congestion and safety issues and a means to accomplish such improvements.*

Meeting Objectives: *Review and discuss each of the suggestions for short term improvements related to the reduction of congestion and improvement of safety; and, identify for each what is needed to complete the improvement and who can contribute toward completion or implementation. This effort will begin to inform the project participants’ commitments toward achieving the project objectives through the Declaration of Cooperation.*

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Representative Mark Johnson**

* Introduced himself, and welcomed participants.
* Summarized the last meeting, congratulating the team on their progress so far towards generating potential solutions.
* Focused the group towards ideas and actions which are attainable for this next tour season.

Participants introduced themselves by name and agency/relation to the project.

**Oregon Solutions Process, Today’s Meeting**

**Michael Mills, Oregon Solutions**

* Highlighted the need to work on short-term solutions, echoing Rep. Johnson’s definition as those that can be achieved or initiated by this next summer tour season.
* Gave an overview of the day’s objectives, process and schedule
* The group decided to review each suggested action from last meeting together to evaluate whether items were short or long-term, prior to discussing how to move them forward.

**Discussion of Action Items**

**Items identified as Medium-term actions:**

* Making the road one way at certain times of the year.
* Require NW Forest pass for parking on the Historic Highway.

**Items identified as Long-term actions:**

* Time limited parking on Historic Highway.
* Time limited parking on I-84. Needs longer term study to identify a plan.
* Purchase/reserve parking passes online.
* Several participants expressed that a long-term, studied “Parking Management Strategy” was needed that could encompass the above actions. NW Forest pass could be another tool used to implement a longer-term, inter-jurisdictional parking strategy.

**\*** *Participants discussed the possibility that initiating action on medium and long-term projects or running pilots or tests are short-term actions that can be initiated this season.* *Many of these items therefore stayed on the list of items to discuss, so that participants could brainstorm on how to kick-start these actions.*

**Other Considerations regarding Action Items:**

* + Historic Highway State Trail- starting the conversation of how are we going to manage the increasing use that is anticipated?
	+ What are the interests of residents, what are the potential impacts on them?
	+ What similar tourism locations, with residents, that we can use as examples to consider?
	+ Susan Law described a similar example, Muir Woods, which had tried and a shuttle service. Didn’t limit parking, and after 10 years, residents were tired the congestion. 20% come in shuttles, but they still have many of the same issues. This past year, Marin County started a reservation system for parking. Their park system did an environmental assessment and implemented a reservation system.
		- How did they get funding for the studies? – Local and federal. Park Service developed assessment.
		- Transit is not necessarily a silver bullet. Still going to be congested.
	+ State Historic Preservation Office needs to be consulted. Keep in mind the Historic Highway was created to move people to this historic site.

**Reviewed and discussed Identified Short-term Work Items**

Participants were asked to circulate the room to review the short-term Action Items previously generated by the group. They were asked to provide comments on each Action Item pertaining to the following questions:

* What do we hope to accomplish?
* What is needed to accomplish this action? Are there obstacles?

Participants then voted on which items had the most potential for measurable impact on congestion and safety in the near future. They then circulated the room one more time to answer the questions:

* How might you or your agency be able to help?
* What are the steps to initiate this action? What is the estimated timeline to complete/implement?
* Are there others who might also be able to contribute to this action?

*\* The responses generated by these questions are captured on the corresponding document entitled “Action Item Spreadsheets and Comments 1.19.16.” Items which received prioritizing votes are bolded, and highlighted in yellow, with the number of votes in parenthesis.*

**Updates from Project Team Members:**

* Kristen Stallman described the achievements, plans and timeline of the parallel Gorge Transit Study.
* Dave Duncan gave an update on Grayline’s progress in creating a shuttle from downtown Portland to Troutdale to the Gorge, with 10 spots being designated in Troutdale for the shuttle. Edgefield is also designating parking spots for a shuttle. Buses will stop for 20-30 seconds and are GPS equipped.
* Commander Reiser gave updates on the availability of volunteers to assist with enforcement/education. Of 21 total volunteers, 3 volunteers indicated that they could dedicate time to help out on the Historic Highway in the summer.

**Next Steps/ Sub-committees**

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| **Committee** | **Members/participants** |
| Shuttles/Tours (public and private) | * **Kristen Stallman**, Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Coordinator, ODOT
* **Dave Duncan**, General Member, Grey Line of Portland
* **Kevin Price**, Oregon State Parks Regional Director, Columbia River Gorge District
* **Joanna Valencia**, Senior Transportation Planner, Multnomah Co. Transportation Planning
* **Susan Law**, Western Federal Lands Highway Division, WFLHD, Federal Highway Administration
* **Michele Spatz**, Mobility Manager, MCEDD
* **Kristin Dahl**, Director, Destination Development, Travel Oregon
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| Marketing and Traffic information | * **Kristin Dahl**, Director, Destination Development, Travel Oregon
* **Kristen Stallman**, Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Coordinator, ODOT
* **Stan Hinatsu**, Recreation Planner, USFS, CRG National Scenic Area
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| On-site improvements, safety management, and public safety (road safety audit) | * **Kristen Stallman**, Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Coordinator, ODOT
* **Ray Joseph**, Planner, Columbia River Gorge Commission
* **Kristin Austin**, US Forest Service, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
* **Commander Monte Reiser**, Multnomah County Sherriff’s Department
* **Susan Law**, Western Federal Lands Highway Division, WFLHD, Federal Highway Administration
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**Upcoming Meetings:**

* Thursday, March 10th, 1-4 pm, Bonneville
* Tuesday, April 19th, 1-4 pm, Port of Cascade Locks Marina, Historic House
* Thursday, May 12th, Declaration of Cooperation Signing, Multnomah Falls

**Scheduled and Discussed Public Meeting,** Tuesday, March 29th, 6:00 pm (Tentative)

* The Project Team decided to hold the meeting in Corbett.
* The discussed intention of the meeting is to convey information and collect public input.
* Project Team discussed providing people the opportunity to provide input online as well.
* Format could be a meeting or open house. If an open house was held, they could combine the event with information on the Gorge Transit Study and Historic Highway State Trail.

**Attendees at 01.19.16 meeting:**

* Representative Mark Johnson, Co-convener
* Ray Joseph, Planner, Columbia River Gorge Commission
* Victoria Purvine, Corbett Resident
* Kate Sappell, Executive Assistant/Constituent Relations, Office of Comm. Diane McKeel
* Kevin Price, Oregon State Parks Regional Director, Columbia River Gorge District
* Kristin Austin, US Forest Service, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area
* Dave Duncan, General Member, Greyline of Portland
* Kristen Stallman, Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area Coordinator, ODOT
* Commander Monte Reiser, Multnomah County Sherriff’s Department
* Michele Spatz, Mobility Manager, MCEDD
* Susan Law, Western Federal Lands Highway Division, WFLHD, Federal Highway Admin
* Lynn Burditt, CRG National Scenic Area Manager, USFS
* Stan Hinatsu, Recreation Planner, USFS, CRG National Scenic Area
* Kristin Dahl, Director, Destination Development, Travel Oregon
* Sherriff Matt English, Hood River County Sheriff’s Office
* Joanna Valencia, Senior Transportation Planner, Multnomah Co. Transportation Planning
* Michael Mills, Oregon Solutions
* Liz Oberhausen, Oregon Solutions

**Unable to Attend:**

* Commissioner Diane McKeel, Co-convener
* Petra Hackworth, Travel Oregon
* Cassie Kornacki, Legislative Aid, Representative Mark Johnson
* Kate Sinner, Regional Solutions Coordinator, Office of Governor Kate Brown
* Karyn Criswell, ODOT Region 1
* Scott Maguire, Office of Senator Jeff Merkley
* Jagjit Nagra, Field Representative, Office of Senator Jeff Merkley
* Phil Chang, Field Representative, Office of Senator Jeff Merkley
* Rick Buck, Concessionaire, Multnomah Falls Lodge