



DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

Historic Columbia River Highway Collaborative

May 11, 2016

Project Summary

The Historic Columbia River Highway continues to grow in popularity as does the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area 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 was designated by Governor Brown to identify solutions to some of the most immediate short term congestion and safety issues and a means to accomplish such improvements.

As a result of the collaborative efforts of the project team over the past several months, a number of actions to achieve these aims are already underway. The Historic Highway will soon be served by both public and private shuttle services aimed at reducing the number of vehicles. A host of parking and pedestrian circulation efforts to improve pedestrian safety and enhance the visitor experience are currently under review for implementation this summer and next. The involved agencies are working to create common messaging to encourage safe and respectful recreation throughout the Historic Highway. Finally, project team members have committed to ongoing communication and collaboration to ensure successful implementation of project solutions and continue to coordinate their efforts to address common issues in the future.

Objectives

Identify short term improvements related to the reduction of congestion and improvement of safety; and, what is needed to complete the improvement and who can contribute toward completion or implementation.

Project Background

The Columbia River Gorge is a national treasure, and as a result, in 1986 Congress designated it a National Scenic Area (Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area) to protect and enhance the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources. The Historic Columbia River Highway, America's first scenic highway was designed to capture the beauty of the Gorge. The Historic Highway was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2000 which recognized the highway as a significant national heritage resource. The Historic Highway will celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2016. This scenic, two lane road with limited parking provides access to the

wonders of the Columbia Gorge features including its amazing waterfalls and spectacular hiking trails attracting over two million visitors every year.

As the 100th Anniversary of the Historic Highway approaches the local communities, agencies and land managers are bracing for more people and more vehicles to visit the attractions along the Historic Highway which is already choked with congestion during the peak times. With assistance from Oregon Solutions, the agencies and local communities have worked together to identify short term solutions that will improve the safety and enhance the visitor experience of Oregonians and those visiting the Gorge.

Historic Columbia River Highway Collaborative Team Commitments

The commitments represented in the following pages form a public statement of intent to participate in the project, to strive to identify opportunities and solutions whenever possible, to contribute assistance and support within resource limits, and to collaborate with other team members in promoting the success of the project. All team members acknowledge that the best solutions depend upon cooperation by all entities at the table. Accordingly, they recognize that each party has a unique perspective and contribution to make, and legitimate interests that need to be taken into account for the project's success. High among these interests are those of the stewards of Historic Columbia River Highway portion of the Columbia River Gorge within Multnomah and Hood River Counties; and, the property owners and residents along the corridor, and the many visitors to the unique Columbia River National Scenic Area. It is recognized by all parties to this agreement that any final development plans for each specific component of the project will require additional community review and comment before the respective agencies sign off on the project elements and permits are issued.

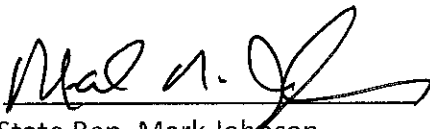
This Declaration of Cooperation, while not a binding legal contract, is evidence to and a statement of the good faith and commitment of the undersigned parties. The undersigned parties to this Declaration of Cooperation have, through a collaborative process, agreed and pledged their cooperation to the following findings and actions:


Historic Columbia River Highway Collaborative Co-conveners

State Representative Mark Johnson and Multnomah County Commissioner Diane McKeel, the collaborative's co-conveners, will commit to the following actions:

- Support project funding through agreement-seeking with other project stakeholders, granting agencies, and private parties.
- Participate in public events and presentations to help promote the project.

- Provide leadership for a re-convening of the Oregon Solutions Project Team within the next 4 to 7 months to evaluate the status of the project and progress made toward the commitments contained in this document.
- Multnomah County will participate in ongoing collaborative efforts and coordinate with partners on any projects that overlap with roads in unincorporated Multnomah County.

Signed: 
State Rep. Mark Johnson
Date: 5/11/16

Signed: 
Multnomah Co. Commissioner Diane McKeel
Date: 5/11/16

USDA Forest Service, Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

In 1986, Congress recognized the Columbia River Gorge as a national treasure when it passed the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act (CRGNSA). The Act identified two purposes for the designation:

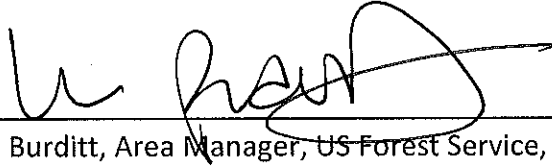
1. To establish a national scenic area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge; and
2. To protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with paragraph 1.

To achieve these purposes CRGNSA is managed through a unique partnership with USDA, Forest Service, the bi-state Columbia Gorge Commission, and 6 Counties within the CRGNSA. The USDA, Forest Service administers National Forest lands within the CRGNSA as well as providing technical assistance to the Gorge Commission and Counties.

Thus the USDA, Forest Service (USFS) supports the vision of the HCRH collaborative and commits to the following to assist in its implementation:

- The USFS will continue to work collaboratively with partners to pursue long term solutions to congestion on the HCRH and future funding for traffic safety improvements; congestion mitigation; and measures to protect and enhance scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources.
- USFS will identify and implement temporary measures that meet CRGNSA visual guidelines that will improve pedestrian and vehicle circulation at the Multnomah Falls HCRH parking lot. Specifically, USFS staff will set up temporary barriers to separate pedestrians and vehicles in the parking lot and will document pedestrian crossing issues with photographs.

- USFS will monitor overall water usage and effluent production at Multnomah Falls and is committed to work with partners to explore long term strategies to resolve waste water treatment plant capacity at MF.
- USFS will collaborate with ODOT and Travel Oregon to develop messages that will address congestion, improve visitor experience and encourage responsible recreation.
- USFS field staff will document parking issues and congestion with photographs.
- USFS will work with partners to develop language to warn visitors about illegal parking and post them at appropriate recreation facilities.
- USFS will be an active participant in the transit monitoring and marketing committees.



Lynn Burditt, Area Manager, US Forest Service,
Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

May 11, 2016
Date

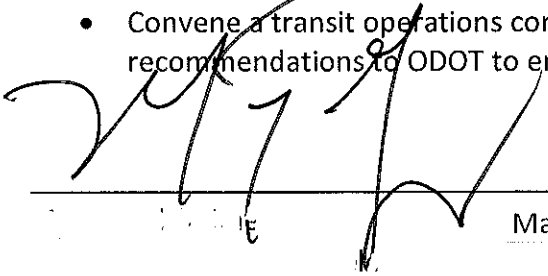
Oregon Department of Transportation

The Oregon Department of Transportation began life in 1913 when the Oregon Legislature created the Oregon Highway Commission to "get Oregon out of the mud." Over 100 years later ODOT's continuing mission is to provide a safe, efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity and livable communities for Oregonians.

ODOT will undertake the following:

- Initiate a pilot transit service between Gateway Transit via Rooster Rock State Park to Multnomah Falls this summer and next (2016-17) in coordination with agency partners.
- Fund the implementation of the Gorge Transit Pilot's marketing strategies in coordination with agency partners.
- Seek additional funding to support the Gorge Transit near-term (2-4 year) solutions which will include improved access between Portland and Hood River.
- Address unsafe parking locations along the Historic Columbia River Highway according to ODOT standards at Angel's Rest and Oneonta Gorge.
- Enhance existing roadside parking on the north side of the Historic Highway near the Angel's Rest parking lot.
- Improve signs at the Multnomah Creek Bridge according to ODOT standards to enhance safety.
- Delineate the pedestrian space for enhanced safety at Multnomah Creek Bridge.
- Work in collaboration with Travel Oregon, USFS, and Oregon Parks and Recreation, ODOT will participate and develop key messages related to congestion along the Historic Columbia River Highway.
- Encourage the use of TripCheck.org as a tool to alert visitors to congestion in the Gorge.

- Invest in enhanced variable message signs. The new sign at Multnomah Falls will allow greater flexibility in crafting our message to the travelling public. The signs will be coordinated with a system of variable message signs that will provide pertinent, real time information to the traveling public. The signs are in development and will be installed 2017.
- Initiate a parking management inventory for the Historic Columbia River Highway, which will include an inventory of legal and illegal parking. The plan will provide a baseline data that ensure future management and planning decisions are built upon good data.
- Convene a transit operations committee to review, discuss and provide recommendations to ODOT to encourage the successful implementation of the service.



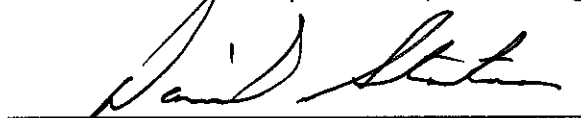
Matt Garrett, Director

5-11-16
Date

Multnomah County Sheriff's Office

The Multnomah County Sheriff's Office mission is to provide "Exemplary Service for a Safe, Livable Community". We define "exemplary" as exceeding the expectations of the local and visiting community that we serve and protect. In cooperation with participating members of the Historic Columbia River Highway Collaboration, the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office is committed to:

- Continue with on-going Columbia River Gorge Collaboration Public Safety Group stakeholders to develop solutions concerning public safety needs.
- Upon availability, assigning volunteer Reserve Deputies and Citizen Volunteers to Columbia River Gorge high-traffic locations during peak time periods.
- Work with stakeholders to assess and plan for significant community events in the Columbia River Gorge.
- Work collaboratively with USFS and Oregon State Parks to ensure contract deputies work with agency leaders to maximize event planning and law enforcement coverage during peak periods.
- Assist with educating the community in the areas of tow laws.
- Research alternate funding opportunities to provide needed law enforcement services during the peak tourist season.
- Maximize the use of the MCSO Green Hornet Wilderness Law Enforcement Services and Trail Rescue Team for proactive education and enforcement of hiking safety, vehicle break-ins and pedestrian/traffic congestion issues.



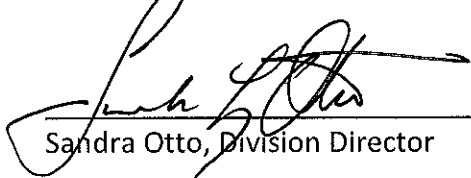
Sheriff Daniel Staton

5-11-2016
Date

Western Federal Lands Highway Division, FHWA

The Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) mission is to improve mobility on our Nation's highways. The FHWA Western Federal Lands Highway Division's (WFLHD) primary purpose is to provide both financial resources and transportation planning/engineering assistance for public roads that access Federal Lands. WFLHD commits to continue providing support to the Historic Columbia River Highway Collaborative partners by:

- Engaging on both established and future teams for the implementation of short, medium, and long term congestion mitigation strategies along the HCRH, including the Car-free Transportation Action Team and the Transit Operations Committee.
- Assisting in strategizing funding opportunities through the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP).
- Serve as a technical resource for planning and safety/traffic engineering.


Sandra Otto, Division Director

5/11/2014
Date

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District (MCEDD)

MCEDD is a committed partner with the public agencies, non-profits and private entities involved with the Historic Highway section of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. With a mission to promote the creation of family-wage jobs, the diversification of the economic base, and the growth, development and retention of business and industry within the five-county district, MCEDD supports the objectives of the Historic Columbia River Highway collaborative and makes the following commitments:

- Participate in the planning and implementation of the immediate improvements and in the future planning efforts.
- Support future funding opportunities consistent with MCEDD's economic development strategy, that will achieve project objectives, including safety improvements, traffic congestion mitigation, and enhancement of recreation experiences.
- Serve as a technical resource, providing in-kind services, dedicated staff time as affordable and appropriate, and continue as a strong partner.
- Participate in an ongoing work group or governance structure in collaboration with agency partners, recognizing that the Historic Highway and this portion of the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area is in need of constant care and attention given its growing popularity.


Amanda Hoey, Executive Director

5-4-16
Date



Declaration of Commitment for Columbia River Historic Highway Collaborative

The National Scenic Area Act called for a new partnership between the Columbia River Gorge Commission, a bi-state regional planning agency, and the USDA Forest Service, the states of Oregon and Washington, and the six counties with land in the Scenic Area. The Act also called for a cooperation between the Gorge Commission and four Columbia River Gorge Treaty Tribes.

The Columbia River Gorge Commission has several responsibilities under the Act, including planning for the National Scenic Area, creating a Management Plan, implementation of the Management Plan, and monitoring and hearing appeals of land-use decisions. The Forest Service co-author the Management Plan, administers recreation facilities, assists in resource protection programs, provides technical assistance and manages National Forest lands.

Thus, the Columbia River Gorge Commission supports the vision of the Columbia River Historic Highway Collaborative and commits to providing the following assistance:

- Provide in-kind services, dedicated staff time as resources permit and consistent with statutory and regulation mandates, and continue as a strong partner.
- Participate in ongoing collaborative efforts for the implementation of safety improvements, traffic congestion mitigation, enhancement of recreation experiences, and measures to protect, preserve and enhance the scenic, natural, cultural and recreational resources impacted by increased visitor use.
- Participate in an ongoing work group or governance structure in collaboration with agency partners, recognizing that the Historic Highway and this portion of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is in need of constant care and attention given its growing popularity.
- Coordinate with public agencies, non-profits and private partners in the review of applications related to the implementation of project team recommendations, balancing the competing scenic, natural, cultural and recreation resources interests.

Signed: Krzysztof H. Wolniakowski Date: 4/25/2016

Krzysztof Wolniakowski, Executive Director, Columbia River Gorge Commission

Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD)

As the stewards and responsible agency for state park lands in the Columbia River Gorge, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) commits to the following actions and measures for successful implementation of the Historic Columbia River Highway Collaborative strategies for improving safety, reducing congestion and enhancing the visitor's experience. OPRD will:

- Stay connected to the community and agency partners by participating in the planning and implementation of the immediate improvements and in the future planning efforts.
- Coordinate with ODOT and other agency partners in the Gorge transit pilot marketing plan.
- Participate and support Gorge pilot shuttle service by waiving the day use fee at Rooster Rock State Park for visitors using shuttle service between Rooster Rock State Park and Multnomah Falls.
- Have OPRD volunteers and staff at Vista House provide shuttle information to visitors traveling along the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH).
- Have OPRD staff at both the entrance booth and office at Rooster Rock provide shuttle information.
- Place temporary signs, directional and informational, in strategic locations at Rooster Rock.
- OPRD staff will document congestion challenges along the HCRH by photographing/recording busy days.
- OPRD will list appropriate shuttle information on the gorge parks website.



Lisa Sumption, Director



Date

Oregon Tourism Commission dba Travel Oregon

The Oregon Tourism Commission, doing business as Travel Oregon, is a semi-independent agency created by the Oregon Legislature in 2003 to enhance Oregonians' quality of life by strengthening economic impacts of the state's \$10.3 billion tourism industry.

Travel Oregon has been a committed partner to the re-development of the Historic Columbia River Highway and State Trail and serves as a long-standing member of the HCRH Advisory Committee. We support the redevelopment of the Highway and the development of the State Trail into a world-class asset for the State of Oregon.

To that end, Travel Oregon supports the objectives of the Columbia River Historic Highway Collaborative and makes the following commitments:

- Contribute funding to the development of a communications plan to guide 2016 season messaging from a diverse set of information providers to HCRH users during every stage of their journey: from pre-trip planning to onsite information.
- Assist with the implementation of the communications plan by:
 - Providing a platform for trip planning information and trip inspiration on TravelOregon.com (i.e. content landing page where a collection of related stories are showcased)
 - Providing trip inspiration about car-free travel and how to utilize transit and shuttle options in the Gorge (i.e. story content about car-free itineraries for the Gorge)
 - Putting a focus on trip inspiration to off-the-beaten-path areas during non-peak visitation periods in the Columbia River Gorge
- Assist ODOT with marketing the *Columbia Gorge Express* pilot transit project with PR pitches and content development.
- Support the Car-free Transportation Options Action Team that has emerged from the Gorge Tourism Studio to help them succeed with developing car-free experiences for visitors to the Gorge over the long-term.
- Provide letters of support to help secure funding that will achieve project objectives, including communications and marketing, safety improvements, traffic congestion mitigation, enhancement of recreation experiences.
- Provide technical assistance for marketing, communications and destination development on an as-needed basis.
- Participate in an ongoing work group or governance structure in collaboration with agency partners, recognizing that the Historic Highway and the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Area is in need of constant care and attention given its growing popularity.
- Continue to serve as an Advisory Committee member to the Historic Columbia River Highway.



Kristin Dahl, VP, Destination Development


5/11/2016

Date

Victoria Purvine, Community of Corbett

As a resident and advocate for the Community of Corbett, and a member of Northeast Multnomah County Community Association (NEMAAC), I commit to:

- Stay connected with the community and agency partners by participating in the ongoing planning and implementation of the immediate improvements and in the future planning efforts related to the Historic Highway.
- Two-way sharing of information on the progress related to the Historic Highway improvements and input from the general community of Corbett.
- Assist with posting announcements and other opportunities that relate to the Historic Highway on Corbett community websites and face book pages.



Victoria Purvine

5-11-16
Date

Gray Line of Portland

Gray Line of Portland is owned and operated by tour industry professionals with over 70 years of combined experience. Gray Line of Portland values the Columbia River Gorge as a natural, scenic and tourism resource and will continue to offer the public a unique visitor experience in a responsible way. Gray Line of Portland will:

- Operate Multnomah Falls & Columbia River Gorge Tours, beginning on Saturdays starting May 2nd, increasing to four days per week on May 23rd and to daily on June 13th. The Multnomah Tour will operate daily until September 6th, four days per week until October 11th and Saturday's until November 21st.
- Operate its new Gorge Explorer Shuttle service for people who want to spend more time exploring the Gorge, four days per week from Portland and Troutdale starting on June 16 and continuing until September 4.
- Collect and share information with ODOT and other agency partners in the Gorge transit pilot that will inform future decision-making.
- Coordinate with USFS to insure compliance with any USFS permit requirements.


David Duncan, General Manager

5/11/16
Date