



8A

Segment 8 – Mitchell Point Tunnel

At this location, a tunnel originally connected the two intact historic highway segments on either side of Mitchell Point. The “Tunnel of Many Vistas” was 390 feet long and had five adits, or “windows,” with magnificent views of the scenic Columbia River. The tunnel was 18 feet wide and 19 feet high at the crown. A viaduct was used to access the tunnel’s west portal, and a cut into the hillside accessed the west end of this span. The state closed the old highway route through the Mitchell Point Tunnel in 1953 because of increased vehicle size and rockfall hazards. The tunnel and much of the approach route to the west, including the viaduct, were removed when the state removed the hillside to make room for full build-out of Interstate 84. The only remnants of the tunnel are narrow ledges at the west and east approaches. These benched areas are located about 200 feet above Interstate 84 and currently used as rockfall catchment areas in conjunction with other catchments adjacent to Interstate 84 below.

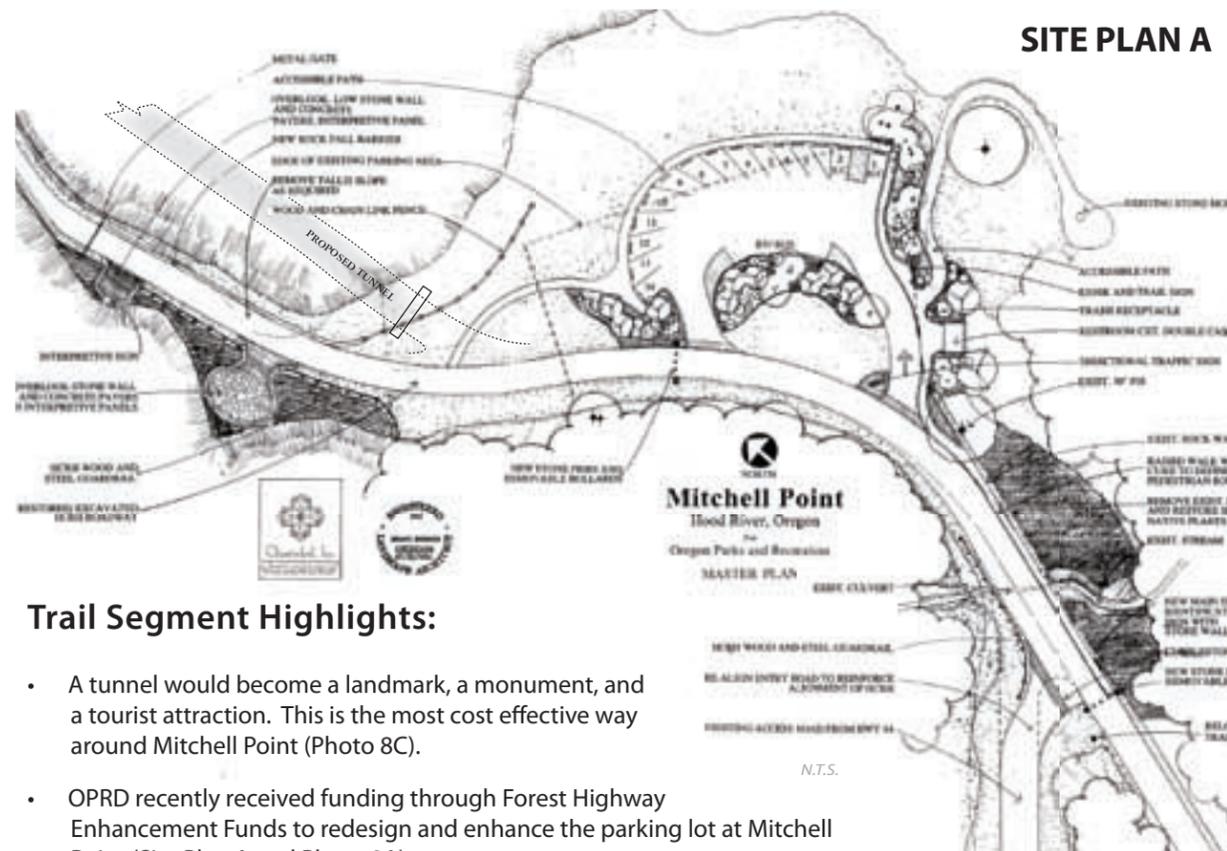
Reconstruction of Mitchell Point Tunnel would not only provide a way through Mitchell Point but also provide future trail users and visitors a unique way to experience the historic highway and Columbia River Gorge. In spring 2008, the Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway contracted with GRI, geotechnical engineers, to prepare a geotechnical feasibility study for a new tunnel through Mitchell Point.

Their report envisions a tunnel that connects the two old highway segments east and west of Mitchell Point near the original grade of the historic highway. With a tunnel width and height of 18 feet and length of about 1,200 feet. Tunnel report includes three to five adits (windows) from the main tunnel to the cliff face to the north to provide viewing areas and allow for natural light. The west portal is located at the existing rock outcrop near the northeast corner of the parking area. The east portal requires a cut in soil and decomposed rock before tunneling can begin.

Photo 8A : Oregon Parks and Recreation Department recently received funding to enhance the parking lot and interpretive opportunities at Mitchell Point, a scenic, yet often overlooked wayside and State Park.

Photo 8B : View from the west side of Mitchell Point looking northwest at a striking view of the Columbia River Gorge.

Photo 8C: View from the east side of Mitchell Point looking northwest towards the Columbia River. Remnants of the historic highway are visible in the foreground.



Trail Segment Highlights:

- A tunnel would become a landmark, a monument, and a tourist attraction. This is the most cost effective way around Mitchell Point (Photo 8C).
- OPRD recently received funding through Forest Highway Enhancement Funds to redesign and enhance the parking lot at Mitchell Point (Site Plan A and Photo 8A).
- Most visually subordinate of the all options to get around Mitchell Point.
- Site is accessible to eastbound I-84 motorists.
- Incredible Columbia River Gorge views (Photo 8B)



8B



8C

Segment 8 – Preliminary Cost Estimate

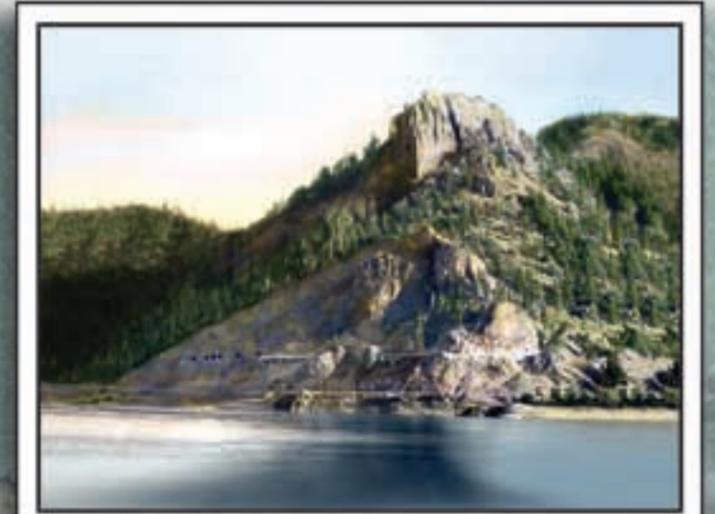
Station	Item	Cost
0+00 to 12+00	1200LF Tunnel with 3-5 Side Adits (Per GRI Geotechnical Evaluation)	\$ 5,654,000
0+00 to 12+00	Trail (3" AC x 12 wide, 10"CR Base X 16')	36,000
0+00 to 12+00	Lighting (Allowance)	150,000
0+00	West Portal (For Rockfall Protection)	90,000
N/A	Traffic Control on I-84 (Allowance)	100,000

Raw Construction	6,030,000
Engineering & Permits (20%)	1,206,000
Construction Engineering (15%)	904,500
Sub Total	8,140,500
Contingency @ 40%	3,256,200
Estimated Project Cost (2008)	11,396,700
Estimated Inflation (2008-10)	1,139,670
Project Cost Estimate (2010)	\$ 12,536,370

Please Note: Not all stations shown in the Preliminary Cost Estimate tables are shown on the segment Feasibility Maps.

LEGEND

	EXISTING (INTACT) HCRH		PROPOSED RETAINING WALLS		PROPOSED BRIDGE
	2008 PROPOSED HCRH TRAIL		ESTIMATED FILL SLOPE		PROPOSED CULVERTS
	PROPOSED TUNNEL		ESTIMATED CUT SLOPE		VIEWPOINT
	ROCKFALL/EXCAVATION AREAS		POTENTIAL TRAILHEAD		POINT OF INTEREST
	PHOTO VIEWPOINTS		SECTION DRAWING		CREEK/DRAINAGE



Looking south at a view of Mitchell Point and "The Tunnel of Many Vistas" from the Columbia River, c. 1920s.

