



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

**Department of Transportation**  
Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee  
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Oregon Congressional Delegation  
Washington, D.C.

RE: Historic Columbia River Highway Earmark

Honorable Senators and Representatives,

The Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (OBPAC) is pleased to lend our support to the Oregon Department of Transportation's earmark request for \$23 million through the surface transportation authorization legislation to construct the priority projects outlined in the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail Reconnection Strategy.

We hope you will help realize our State's vision to recreate the continuous 73-mile route through the Columbia River Gorge, a world-class adventure initially envisioned by engineer Sam Lancaster. This long lost world class scenic highway is of regional and national significance, as the stunning beauty of the Columbia River Gorge is known the world over. Unfortunately, the construction of the freeway through the Columbia River Gorge (now Interstate 84) severed the original route in a number of locations. The Oregon Legislature recognized this loss in 1987 and directed the Oregon Department of Transportation to preserve and enhance existing portions of the historic highway...and plan for reconnection of this scenic route as a State Trail.

Since the 1987 Oregon Legislature identified a strong desire to maintain, enhance and restore the Historic Columbia River Highway (HCRH), ODOT has been charged with working with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the State Historic Preservation Office and Travel Oregon to preserve, enhance and reconnect the Historic Columbia River Highway. Much work has been accomplished since that date and 62 of the original 73 miles of the HCRH are now open to travel either by motor vehicle (Historic Highway or connecting county roads) or by foot and bicycle (State Trail).

OBPAC is pleased to support The Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee and the Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway to advocate for the completion of the State Trail by 2016, the 100th anniversary of Lancaster's masterpiece.

Sincerely,

(via e-mail)

Jerry Norquist

Chair, Oregon Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee