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March  
2015 In  
This  
Issue:

*Your source for updates and information regarding efforts to remember, restore and reconnect the Historic Columbia River Highway and State Trail--a world class adventure from Portland to The Dalles.*

Get  
Involved

### Historic Highway Advisory Committee Meeting 3/24/15

The Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 24th at 10 a.m. in the newly restored Springdale School ([35800 E Historic Columbia River Highway](#)) between Troutdale and Corbett.

Construction  
around the  
corner  
(2015 and  
2016)

The meeting highlights include:

- 2016 Celebration update
- Historic Highway State Trail update including a video project update
- Sneak peak at the Historic Highway "Hub" Community designs
- Communication Plan
- HCRH crowding issue discussion

Video series  
coming soon

Historic  
Highway  
Centennial  
in the works

For more information on the Advisory Committee, contact [Kristen Stallman](#). To view the meeting agenda and read past meeting minutes please click [here](#).

Future  
"Gorge  
Hubs" will  
welcome  
visitors

### Construction around the corner on the State Trail

Sandy River  
Trail  
connection

#### **2015: Starvation Creek to Lindsey Creek**

The next sections of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail are taking shape between Cascade Locks and Hood River. Construction is scheduled to begin this fall with completion planned for early fall 2016, just in time for the Historic Highway Centennial season of celebrations!

This new 1.2 mile trail will continue the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail from Viento State Park/Starvation Creek; providing access to two classic Gorge waterfalls (Hole-in-the-Wall and Cabin Falls). The project includes removing invasive species including ivy and blackberry, as well as adding a new iconic concrete pedestrian bridge over Warren Creek reminiscent of the other beautiful Historic Highway bridges.

#### **2016: Lindsey Creek to Wyeth**

2016 marks the 100th Anniversary of the Highway and is also an important milestone for

reconnecting the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail. After the ribbon cutting for the Starvation Creek-Lindsey Creek opening, we will head west and celebrate the ground breaking of the next trail segment.



A rendering of the Summit Creek Viaduct, which will mimic the historic bridges in the Gorge, is located in this section of trail.

In 2016, construction will begin on the Lindsey Creek to Wyeth trail segment, which will complete 5-miles of trail between Wyeth and Viento State Park. This trail project will provide huge safety benefits as it includes the notorious Shellrock Mountain Crossing section. Today, the Shellrock Mountain section of I-84 makes for an uncomfortably narrow shoulder for cyclists to ride between an existing retaining wall and the travel lane with roaring semi-trucks and speeding cars. If you were brave enough to ride your bike between Cascade Locks and Hood River you likely remember this exact location.



Historic Highway Bike Map showing existing conditions. [View a larger version.](#)

The engineers and design team had to sharpen their pencils and think creatively to come up with trail solutions. This next project requires some innovative engineering to fit the State Trail in the Gorge. The Wyeth to Lindsey Creek section includes a new trailhead (40 parking spaces) adjacent to the existing US Forest Service (USFS) Wyeth Campground. A new pedestrian bridge is proposed over Gorton Creek to link the new trailhead to the existing campground. From there, the trail heads east towards the formidable Shellrock Mountain.

*"Shellrock Mountain cannot be did" - The Oregonian, 1916*

The Oregonian reported in 1916 that old timers jeered that a road around "Shellrock Mountain, could not be did." However, with the generous support of Simon Benson, local businessman and visionary, a crew of "honor men" (a crew of workers from a local prison) was hired to build the highway. The old timers were correct: the road failed soon after construction but Simon Benson and the engineers back-picked the rock a few short years later to successfully build the Columbia River Highway. The walls from the 1914 road still remains today, tucked behind large retaining walls and piled high with rock. The Historic Highway State Trail will be built behind the concrete barrier and at a higher elevation than I-84. This section of trail will provide amazing views of the Columbia River and most importantly, will allow cyclists to safely ride through this section of the Gorge.



View looking up Shellrock Mountain.

Once past Shellrock Mountain, the trail design is presented with another challenge. The trail needs to gain 40 feet of elevation from the shoulder of I-84 up to an amazing intact section of moss covered, old highway. To do this, a new wall is being designed to support a 500-foot tall viaduct. The viaduct will blend with the natural landscape and its design will be reminiscent of the iconic structures found along the Historic Highway. From the "mossy road" section of the trail, travelers will descend back down to the I-84 shoulder; requiring some cliff face construction similar to what Sam Lancaster employed to fit the existing highway into the Gorge's rugged landscape.

### **Video series about the state trail coming soon!**

This is an exciting time along the Historic Highway State Trail. To illustrate the design concepts, we are working with Travel Oregon to produce a video series about the trail, directed by Russ Roca and Laura Crawford, the creative filmmakers behind Path Less Pedaled.



Laura Crawford and Russ Roca, the creative filmmakers behind Path Less Pedaled.

Stay tuned for the video release!

## Historic Highway Centennial is in the works

The Celebration Coordinating Committee is making significant progress on the development of an event, communication, and funding plan for the festivities planned throughout the Gorge to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the dedication of America's First Scenic Highway in June 2016.



Bill Failing, the committee chair, is working with the Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway, Friends of Vista House, Portland Rose Festival, Friends of Multnomah Falls, Horseless Carriage Club, US Postal Service, Royal Rosarians, Friends of the Gorge, Skamania Lodge, Gorge Discovery Center, Troutdale Historical Society, and Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum (WAAM) to choreograph a memorable celebration.

## Future "Gorge Hubs" will welcome visitors

In early December 2014, members of the Historic Highway Community met to design a system of "Hubs" along the Historic Highway. One participant aptly described the hubs as a visual handshake to all those exploring the Historic Highway, recreating in the Gorge, and entering our communities. The meeting resulted in lots of enthusiasm and ideas for future hubs in Wood Village, Troutdale, Cascade Locks, Hood River, Mosier and The Dalles. Once built, the hubs will provide the Gorge communities an opportunity to welcome visitors with wayfinding information and let them know they have arrived someplace special.

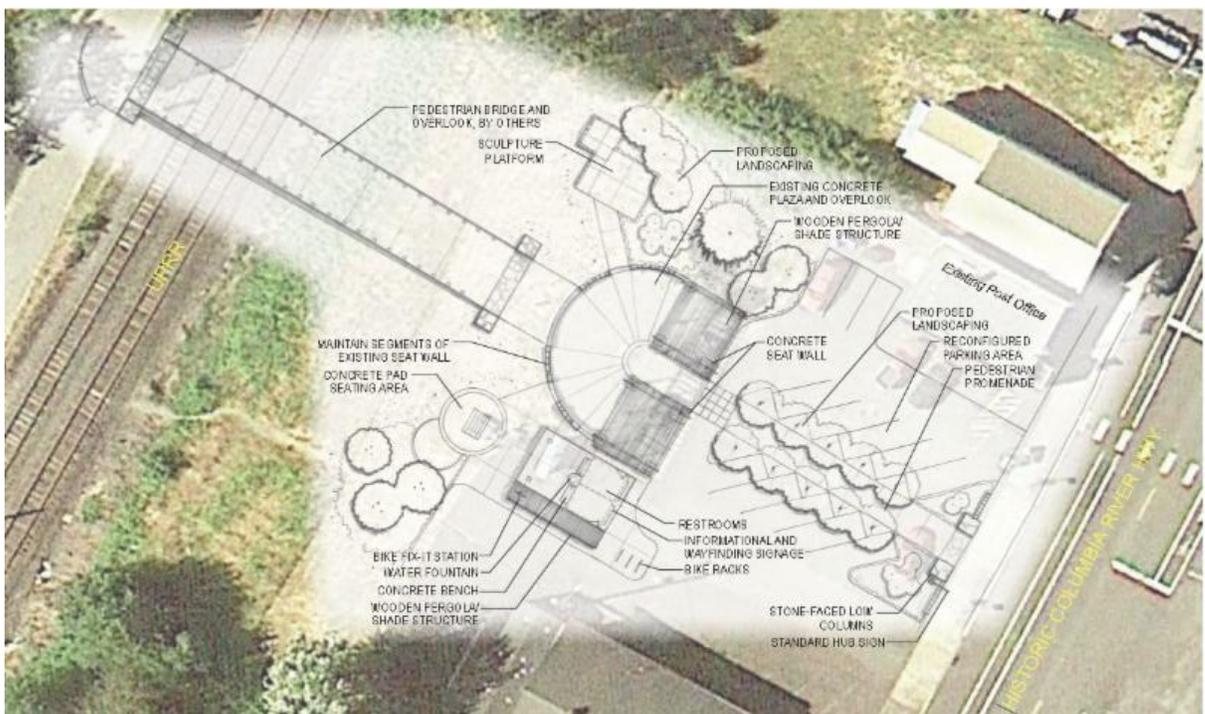


Local Gorge communities working on the "Hubs" project during a design workshop.

After design workshops, the Gorge Hub Working Group reviewed draft hub designs and saw the ideas from the workshops taking form. Some of the highlights include:

- The Dalles hub is integrated into the Lewis and Clark Festival Park, only 100-feet away from the Riverfront Trail.
- Mosier's design boasts a quaint overlook where one can soak in the views of the [syncline](#) set in the gorge's expanse.
- Hood River's downtown hub is nearly constructed and will tie into the city's art walk tour.
- The Cascade Locks hub is in the heart of town at the overlook near the post office, a natural gathering space where locals and through-hikers currently congregate.
- Troutdale's hub has a historic train station theme and is designed adjacent to the Troutdale Historical Society's Depot Rail Museum. This location is at the future intersection of the 40-Mile Loop Trail and the Historic Columbia River Highway.
- Wood Village has visions of its hub becoming a "base camp" for Gorge recreationists and is located at the Donald L. Robertson City Park.

All the hubs will include wayfinding information and most will have bike fix-it stations and art.



A sketch of the Hub in Cascade Locks.

The Historic Highway Gorge Hub community representatives will be receiving the finalized designs at the end of March 2015. These hub designs will be included in a Historic Highway Gorge Hub design toolkit, a compilation of the designs, to help make a case for the benefits of and finding funding for the Gorge Hubs.

### Sandy River Trails connection open in time for sunny weather

The Sandy River Bridge now has bicycle and pedestrian access not only across the I-84 Sandy River Bridge, but under the bridge along the river's west bank. This trail connection provides access to NE Harlow Road on the north side of the bridge and NE 257th Way to the south. This is a new, exciting piece in connecting the greater 40-Mile Loop Trail.



New Sandy River Trail connection (shown in the photo, below the new I-84 Sandy River Bridge) allows bicycle and pedestrian connection to the 40-Mile Loop Trail.

### Community Design Event for Mosier's Main Street

Kaleidoscope Student Planners (Portland State University students) are working on a plan to make Mosier's Main Street a safer and more enjoyable place for all, and they want to hear from you! There will be two events to get public comments, both events will be family-friendly and food and beverages will be provided.

**Wednesday, March 18th**

2-3 PM - Family focused meeting

5-7 PM - Everyone is welcome

Mosier Community School

**TAKE OUR SURVEY TODAY**  
 Kaleidoscope Student Planners are working with the City of Mosier to make Highway 30, also known as Mosier's Main Street, a safer and more enjoyable place for all. We invite you to participate in a short 10-minute survey to let us know your ideas. Take it today at:

<http://bit.ly/SlowMoSurvey>

Your input will help develop the Slow Mo Plan, a tool for the City Council to strengthen grants that will fund Highway 30 improvement.

**COMMUNITY DESIGN EVENT**  
 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18TH  
 2-3 PM FAMILY  
 5-7 PM EVERYONE  
 MOSIER COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Tell us your ideas in person during our two-part event! Join us after school or later in the day. Food and beverages will be provided.

**SLOW MO'**  
**MAIN STREET CONCEPT PLAN**



FOR UPDATES & MORE INFORMATION VISIT:  
**FACEBOOK.COM/SLOWMOMAINSTREET**  
 OR EMAIL US:  
**SLOWMOPLAN@GMAIL.COM**

Kaleidoscope Student Planners' goal through June will be to develop conceptual designs and programmatic recommendations for Highway 30 through town, to help ensure that Mosier's Main Street reflects community priorities, supports a thriving downtown, and creates a safe and inviting corridor for people traveling on foot, by bike and by motor vehicle.

Participate in the online survey at <http://bit.ly/SlowMoSurvey> and follow the project by "liking" the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SlowMoMainStreet>. The group can also be reached directly by emailing [SlowMoPlan@gmail.com](mailto:SlowMoPlan@gmail.com).

For more information visit: [facebook.com/slowmomainstreet](https://facebook.com/slowmomainstreet)

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**Contact**

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