



Phased Reopening

First phase: Reopen the Historic Columbia River Highway between Bridal Veil and Ainsworth State Park to eastbound vehicles from September/October until Oct 31. People walking and biking can travel both ways in a dedicated lane.

Second phase: Open two-way vehicle traffic Nov. 1.

What

The Oregon Department of Transportation closed the Historic Columbia River Highway in September 2017 during the Eagle Creek Fire. Six miles remain closed between Bridal Veil and Ainsworth State Park. Once fire recovery work is complete, we will open the Historic Highway for travelers.

We are planning a phased reopening from September/October to Nov. 1.

Motor vehicles will only be able to travel east on the Historic Highway. People walking and biking can share the westbound travel lane.

Questions?

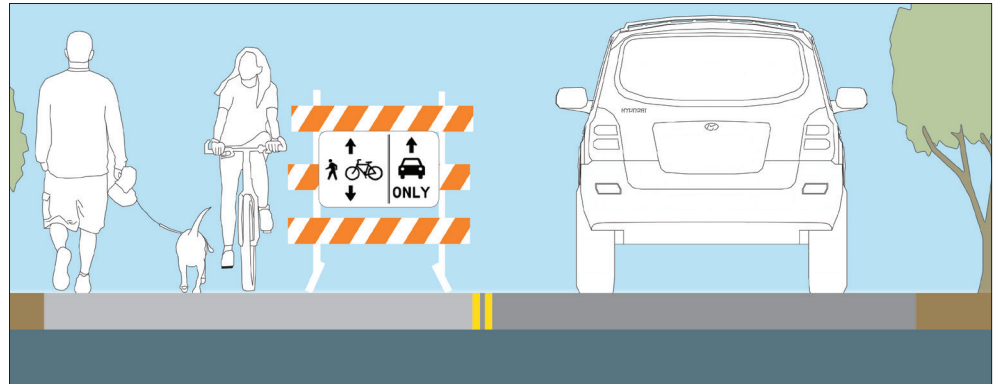
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Tell us about your trip

Go online to
www.historichighway.org,
select the “phased reopening”
page and take the survey.

(July 2018)



BIKE/WALK both ways

People walking and biking in both directions share a dedicated lane.

DRIVE/BIKE eastbound

Motorized vehicles can only travel east until Oct. 31, 2018.

Why

ODOT, Oregon State Parks, the U.S. Forest Service and other government agencies have been studying safety and congestion on the Historic Highway.

Our goal is to improve traffic flow and emergency vehicle access while enhancing the experience for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians.

Congestion around Multnomah Falls, a top tourist destination in Oregon with two million visitors annually, leads to safety concerns. We want travelers to be able to safely experience the Historic Highway and the scenic vistas along the way.

The fire-related closure provides an unique opportunity to try an option to ease congestion and improve safety.

We will monitor how the phased reopening impacts congestion and safety and potentially study a longer-term project.

Get tips for planning your trip, going car free in the Gorge and learning what is open after the Eagle Creek Fire:

www.historichighway.org

For more trip planning resources, visit www.historichighway.org



 Historic Columbia River Highway: vehicles travel east

 Walk/bike both ways in a dedicated lane

 Historic Columbia River Highway

 Eagle Creek fire trail closure

 Columbia Gorge Express stop

 Parking

 EXIT 28 (eastbound only, westbound on-ramp only)

 EXIT 25

 EXIT 31

 EXIT 35



 Beginning of limited westbound vehicle travel, turn around here if you do not want to continue east.

Going to Multnomah Falls?

- Ride transit: www.ColumbiaGorgeExpress.com
- Go early or midweek to avoid peak visiting times.
- Go car free: www.columbiagorgecarfree.com
- Take I-84 to Exit 31 to park (fills quickly) or Exit 28 to use the Historic Highway.



Phased Reopening Questions & Resources

Why are you only opening to eastbound vehicle traffic at first?

Most cars travel east from Portland on the Historic Columbia River Highway, which is why we are maintaining eastbound travel.

Currently there is no dedicated space for people walking and biking, although many people walk in narrow shoulders or in vehicle lanes on a typical day. The phased reopening provides space for pedestrians and cyclists for a limited time.

The phased reopening allows additional space for emergency service providers, and reduces conflicts with stopped traffic to improve response times.

ODOT, Oregon State Parks, the U.S. Forest Service and other government agencies are studying safety and congestion on the Historic Highway. Restricting vehicle travel to one direction is a potential solution from our Congestion and Transportation Safety Plan.

Multnomah Falls is a top tourist destination in Oregon, with two million visitors annually. Crowded conditions lead to safety concerns and user frustration. We want travelers to be able to safely experience the Historic Highway and the treasures along it.

Will the westbound lane be closed for vehicles permanently?

No. The Historic Highway has been closed for nearly a year, which provides a unique opportunity to reopen and try an option to ease congestion and improve safety.

We will collect traffic, parking and user data and analyze how limiting motor vehicles to eastbound travel only impacts congestion and safety.

If data show improved safety and reduced congestion during the phased reopening, we will study a longer-term project.

If the phased reopening reduces congestion and increases safety, ODOT will still reopen both the highway for vehicles in both directions Nov. 1, 2018.

Are areas still closed after the Eagle Creek Fire?

Yes. Some areas remain closed. Visit gorgefriends.org/findahike or www.fs.fed.us/eaglecreek to find an open adventure.

Although some trails that were damaged are open, there is fire damage and unstable areas off the beaten path. Stay on marked trails and be aware of your surroundings.

Look up, look down and look around frequently to assess potential hazards.

Phased Reopening: Questions & Resources

Where can I park?

The Historic Highway was created to bring you to the wonders of the Columbia Gorge. You can experience the breathtaking vistas while driving along it. If you must stop, know parking is limited and demand exceeds available spaces in the Columbia Gorge.

Go early or go midweek for best results. There are parking lots at I-84 Exit 31, and along the Historic Columbia River Highway at Bridal Veil, Latourell Falls, Angel's Rest, Wahkeena Falls, and Multnomah Falls. Oneonta and Horsetail Falls remain closed with no parking available.

Only park in designated areas and respect business and residential driveways. Some parking is not available because of falling rocks after the Eagle Creek Fire and associated trail closures.

How can I go car free in the Columbia Gorge?

- Take public transit to the Gorge. The Columbia Gorge Express offers bus service from Gateway Transit Center in Portland to Rooster Rock, Multnomah Falls, Cascade Locks and Hood River. For more information and tickets, visit www.ColumbiaGorgeExpress.com.
- Plan car-free trips to the Columbia Gorge (Multnomah Falls and beyond) using the resources on www.columbiagorgecarfree.com.

How do I get to Multnomah Falls?

- Take public transit to the gorge (www.ColumbiaGorgeExpress.com), learn how to go car free (www.Columbiagorgecarfree.com), or join a bus or bike tour.
- Drive I-84 east or west to Exit 31 and park in the I-84 lot. Parking fills up quickly and the lot closes when full. Go early or go midweek.
- Take the Historic Columbia River Highway. From the east, take I-84 Exit 28. From the west, take Exit 22 and return east on the Historic Highway directly or continue to I-84 Exit 28. See above question on parking for more information.
- Cyclists can ride on the Historic Highway (sharing the highway with vehicles) from Troutdale to Multnomah Falls (nearly 20 miles one-way) or from Vista House or Portland Women's Forum (about 12 miles one-way).

How do I share the highway with other users during the phased reopening?

- Watch for emergency service vehicles. In emergencies, these vehicles may use the same lane dedicated for people walking and biking. Vehicles and pedestrians must move over to the shoulder to let emergency vehicles pass.
- Cyclists may share the eastbound lane with motorized vehicles. Cyclists can use the dedicated lane to travel in either direction, but must yield to people walking and limit speeds.
- Drivers should obey the 25 mph speed limit and must watch for cyclists in the lane and pedestrians crossing the highway.
- Pedestrians should use the designated crosswalk at Multnomah Falls and use caution when crossing the vehicle lane at any location. Walk single file to leave room for others.

