

Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

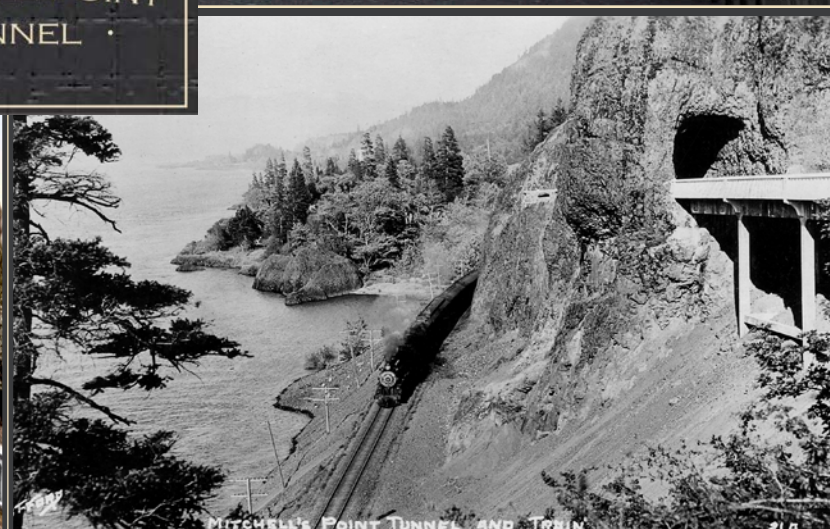
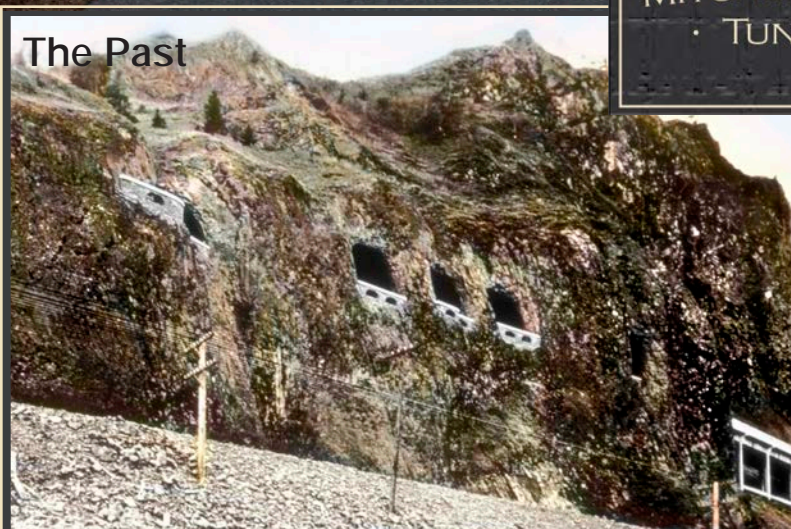
2021 Reconnection Report



The Future

MITCHELL POINT
• TUNNEL •

The Past

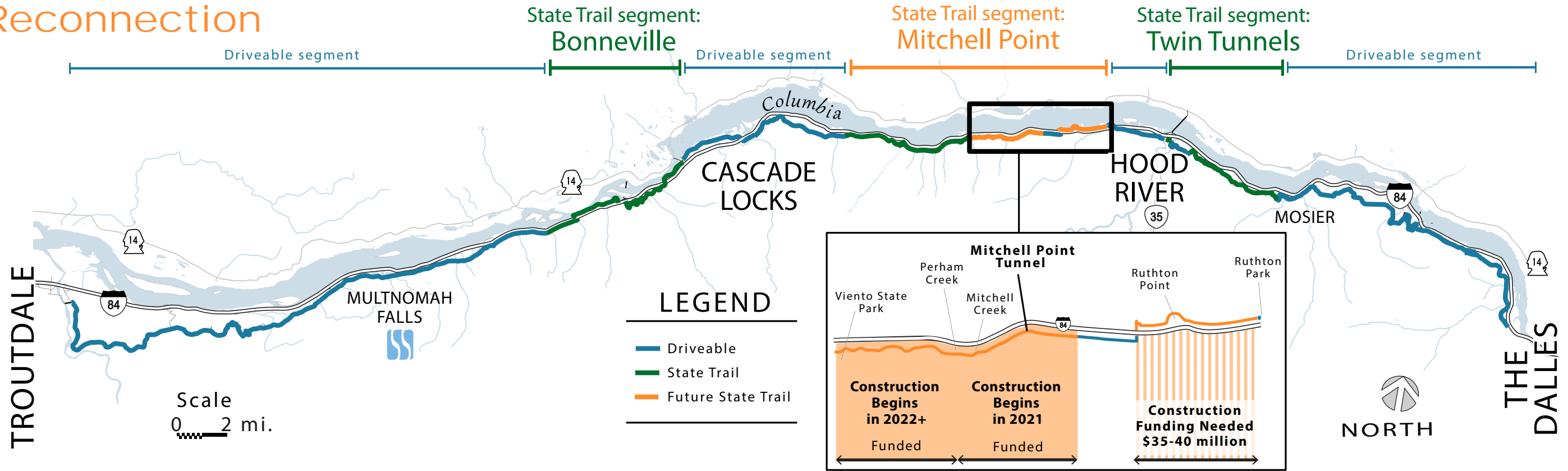


MITCHELL'S POINT TUNNEL AND TRAIN

Awaiting Reconnection

In 1986, 22 miles of trail awaited reconnection.

Now, just over 1.6 miles need funding to be reconnected.



Viento State Park To Mitchell Point (funded — construction anticipated in 2022)

This segment of trail connects the existing Historic Highway State Trail at the Viento Trailhead to Mitchell Point and includes reconnecting 0.67 miles of original sections of the Historic Highway.

The project includes upgrades to the Viento Trailhead and improvements to the South Viento State Park Campground, including a new restroom.

This segment of trail will have two bridges across Perham and Mitchell Creeks with a similar design to recent projects.

Length: 2.7 miles

Schedule: Construction is planned for 2022 and expected to last about two years.

Mitchell Point Tunnel (funded — construction underway!)

The iconic Mitchell Point Tunnel was a highlight of the original Historic Highway, but the construction of Interstate 84 destroyed the tunnel. Soon there will be a 655-foot tunnel with five arched windows at Mitchell Point.

At the west entrance to the tunnel, there will be an overlook area. Each tunnel entrance, or portal, will have stone features as shown in the rendering on the front of this report. A plaza is included on the west side of the tunnel with picnic tables, rest and pause areas, an overlook area and an expanded restroom at the trailhead.

Length: 1.5 miles (with a 655-foot tunnel)

Schedule: Construction begins in early 2021 and is expected to take about two years.

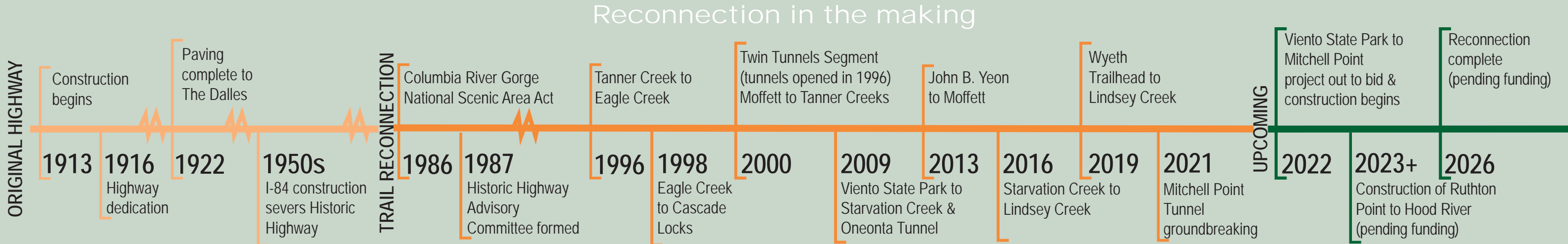
Ruthton Point To Hood River (funding needed)

Just west of the City of Hood River, a section of the Historic Highway with world-class views of the Columbia River Gorge awaits reconnection as part of the Historic Highway State Trail.

This trail segment will extend eastward from Mitchell Point on Mitchell Point Drive, cross underneath I-84, and proceed east to Hood River. We will build a trail on the north side of I-84 to connect with Ruthton Park, including restoring a section of original Historic Highway.

Length: 1.6 miles

Schedule: Design remains in early stages as we pursue funding opportunities for construction. Some investigation and exploration work is anticipated to take place soon.



Remember

We **remember** the high-quality design and aesthetics of the Historic Columbia River Highway and strive to create new segments of the State Trail in the same vein. Constructed between 1913 and 1922, the Historic Columbia River Highway overcame all odds. This road would lay lightly on the land and take its users to the most beautiful spots and breathtaking vistas of the Columbia River Gorge.

Restore

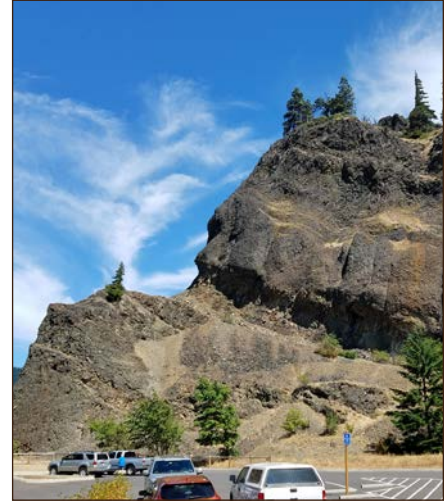
We strive to **restore** existing segments and utilize the 100+ year old facility hand-crafted by the original road engineers/visionaries. In the early 1950s, many miles of the Historic Columbia River Highway were damaged or destroyed to pave the way for Interstate 84. The passage of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act in 1986 motivated the Oregon State Legislature to commit to restore the entire Historic Highway to its glory days of the 1920s.

Reconnect

Our 35-year goal is to **reconnect** and create a continuous Historic Columbia River Highway between Troutdale and The Dalles for everyone's transportation and recreation use. Some segments are accessible to cars and cyclists. Some segments, known as the Historic Highway State Trail, will be accessible only by people walking, rolling or biking.

Revive

The Historic Highway reconnection is a central component to **reviving** communities in the Gorge that were impacted by I-84 construction. More recently, the State Trail plays a roll to revive wildfire and COVID-impacted communities.



Top: Rendering of Mitchell Point parking lot. Bottom: A view of Mitchell Point today from existing parking lot.

Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee

Arthur Babitz, Chair
Hood River County

Wayne Stewart, Vice-Chair
Multnomah County Representative

Leti Valle Moretti
Hood River County Representative,
Governor Appointee

Judy Davis
Wasco County Representative

Francie Royce
Wasco County,
Governor Appointee

Ernest Drapela
Multnomah County,
Governor Appointee

Christine Curran
State Historic Preservation Office

Scott Bricker
Travel Oregon

Clay Courtright
Oregon Parks and Recreation
Department

Rian Windsheimer
Oregon Department of Transportation

Project Partners:



For Americans with Disabilities Act or Civil Rights Title VI accommodations, translation/ interpretation services, or more information call 503-731-4128, TTY 800-735-2900 or Oregon Relay Service 7-1-1.

www.historichighway.org