

Rest Area Observations

Epic Road Trip 2023 (draft)

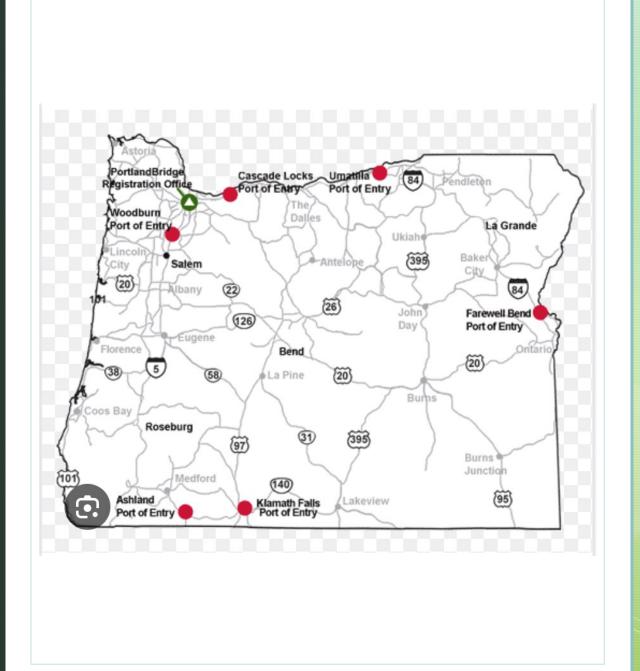
# By the numbers:

- 8,976 miles
- 29 Days
- 28 States
- 96 Public Rest Areas patronized
- Enhanced features noted that would improve Oregon Rest Areas: indoor toddler play area (Colorado); offleash pet exercise area near picnic shelters (Montana, North Dakota); highly visible emergency call-box with interactive features...(Michigan), and more...
- Recurring themes of "issues" kiosk v. brochures & handouts; public-private staffing v. Unstaffed minimalistic

Road Trip details relevant to rest areas generally; amenities that enhance customer experience; and 21st century technologies that promote safety while prudently using public resources.

### Oregon Rest Areas - A Little History

- ■1983 Oregon Travel Information Council formed
- ■1983 Last comprehensive review of Oregon Motor Vehicle Code
- ■2010 5 Rest Areas transferred to Oregon Travel Information Council for management
- ■2012 SB 1591 OTIC
- **2016 OTIC issued performance measures**



## Additional History Nuggets Regarding Rest Areas in Oregon

- January 31, 2001 AG/DOJ letter to Director Grace Crunican, ODOT re: Federal Highway Funds (and comprehensive review);
- 2017 Regular legislative session, HB 2017 passed, including transfer of management responsibilities for eight (8) additional rest areas to TIC along with increased operational funding and capital funding
- September 2018 "Roadside Rest Area Transition Plan submitted by OTIC per HB 2017. [includes 5 rest areas owned by ODOT and 3 rest areas owned by OPRD – Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.]
   Brings total to 39 rest areas at 25 locations.

### Washington-Draft 2023 Strategic Plan

### Key Findings:

24 million users annually

47 statewide locations\* (3 are seasonal)

20 RV dump stations

532 commercial truck parking spaces (most spaces are shared truck/RV based on the safety rest area)

87% safety rest areas are rated in critical condition Most sites were built between 1967 and 1974

### **Key Recommendations**

Addresses core focus areas, including safety, financially sustainable operations, customer experience, truck parking, and resiliency

Provides overview of existing laws that impact safety rest areas

Provides analysis of customer needs & expectations survey

Addresses sites' usage, factors, and BENEFITS TO REDUCE FATIGUE-RELATED CRASHES, INJURIES, and FATALITIES (emphasis mine... ja)

# Comparing & Contrasting Oregon and Washington

Oregon

39 Rest areas at 25 locations across the state (Oregon Travel Information Council)

18.4 million users (Traveler Count FY 2015-16 per OTIC in TIC managed areas)

——— RV dump stations

——— commercial truck parking spaces

\$15,286,966 budget

162,101 miles

Washington

47 locations

24 million users annually

20 RV dump stations

532 commercial truck parking spaces

\$8,708,233 budget

167,632 mils

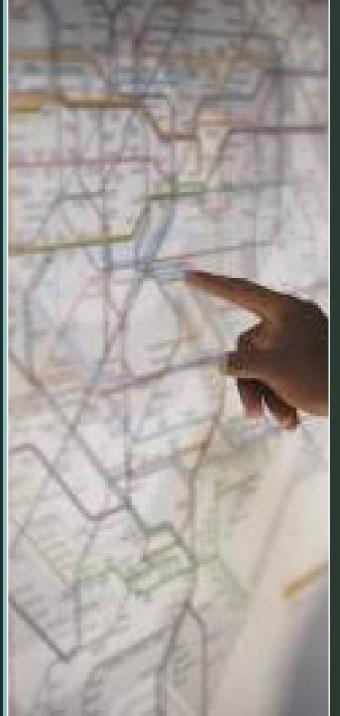
# Rest Areas Save Lives

#### What the data shows

- Rested drivers are safer drivers
- Crashes involving drowsy and fatigued drivers are preventable
- Changing driver behavior to utilize rest areas should focus on incentives not threats of punishment
- Customer surveys should identify barriers to use in current rest areas and what customers need/want to attract greater use

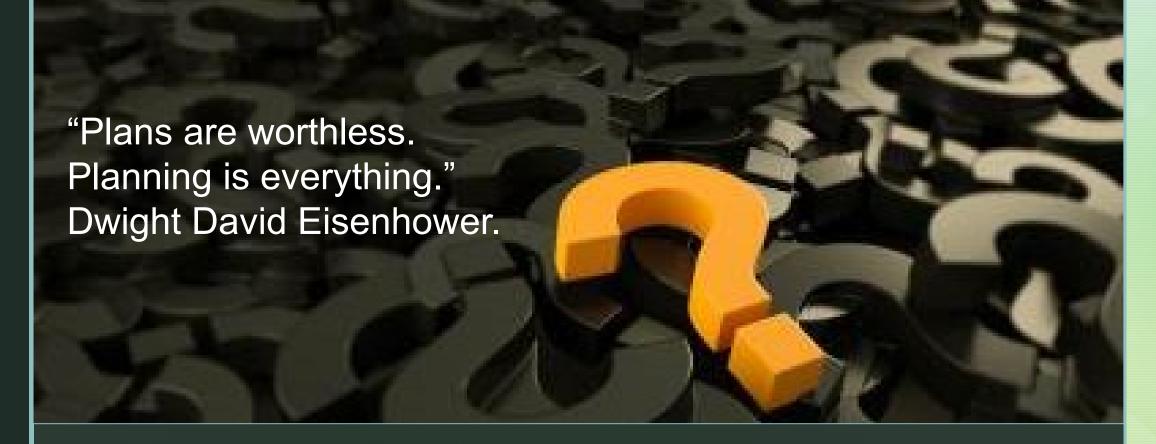
#### Ideal

- A safe place to take a break, stretch your legs, re-focus on safe driving habits;
- An indoor space where children can play under the watchful eye of parent or caretaker...
- Protection from the elements as you exercise your dog(s)



# (Jane Aiken) recommends: OTSC pass recommendation to Oregon Transportation Commission to engage in Strategic Planning for 21st Century Rest Areas

- Use Washington State 2023 Draft Strategic
   Plan as template/starting point for Oregon
- Replicate data collection categories and depth of information
- Validate and expand history and legal context with Oregon information
- Identify unique factors vis a vis Oregon economic activity, development, and social demographics



### Questions?

Respectfully submitted, Jane Aiken, OTSC member, November 8, 2023