Declaration of Statewide Celebration
For Historic Columbia River Highway Centennial of 2016

Whereas, the Historic Columbia River Highway between the cities of Troutdale and The Dalles was the first modern highway constructed in the Pacific Northwest and the first scenic highway in the United States, and

Whereas, the road was the major commercial route between Portland and eastern Oregon for more than 40 years, and

Whereas, its early-20th-century rural highway design exposes visitors to the Columbia River Gorge's most breathtaking and beautiful natural wonders and scenic vistas, and

Whereas, the 73-mile-long highway possesses an extraordinary integrity to the period of construction, and

Whereas, the Oregon Department of Transportation and the State of Oregon have re-opened many portions of the Historic Columbia River Highway as a multi-modal path for recreation, transportation and economic development, and,

Whereas, the Historic Columbia River Highway was dedicated in 1916,

Therefore, the Oregon Heritage Commission hereby declares the centennial of the Historic Columbia River Highway in 2016 a statewide celebration and encourages all Oregonians to learn about its history and to participate in the celebration.

Approved by the Oregon Heritage Commission
September 21, 2015

Eric Martin, Chair