

All Multnomah Bicycle and Pedestrian Advocates.

I recently sent a letter to the Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory to ODOT (HCRH-ODOT) about creating a tri-meeting of their Committee, Oregon Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory to ODOT and our committee, Multnomah County Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory committee. I suggested that this tri-committee meet together to facilitate discussion and advisory concerns about vulnerable users of the highway and trail system.

As you may remember, I reported that the HCRH-ODOT last Sept 2020 advised ODOT Director Strickler and the OTC that the congestion solution for the HCRH, especially at the Multnomah Falls-Wahkeena segment, be "**a non-car solution.**" My suggestion focuses all bike and pedestrian oriented concerns be gathered together is to reinforce having the right people at the right table. There are people who have Cycling & Pedestrian values in their experience bank as members of the HCRH-ODOT but there is no frank representative of vulnerable road users as a discreet seat at the table. On the horizon is a propelling change coming with the completion of the Mitchell Tunnel Project.

There is an effort to have two different shuttles along the HCRH this summer; there is an effort to have reservations for parking this summer; there will a continuation of the Forest Service revenues support for flaggers at Mult Falls pedestrian crossing from I-84 parking lot to the Falls and the lodge which volume in pre-pandemic times is an urban level of 1200 to 1600 pedestrians per hour during peak season. There is no effort to face the direct volume of traffic on the HCRH.

MY concern is that Mitchell Point expected completion will be in 2.5 years. This spectacular place along the HCRH will be a true gem along the trail. This will be an international attraction in itself but the whole highway and trail will be even more congested with visitors attracted by the restoration and re-connection. Readiness is needed now.

The topics I directly imagine are below; I expect there to many other items from different perspectives.

- o Acknowledgement of the Land and history of peoples
- o Safety along the HCRHighway and Trail corridor
- o Recognition that the HCRH corridor is not simple but encompasses roadways through urban, economic areas, suburban, rural zones and supports both daily transportation and recreation issues.
- o Creating a transit which could accommodate bicycle carrying capacity beyond a 'few cycles'
- o Enabling Electrification of cycles along with vehicular electrification support
- o Trail speed regulation that is behavior oriented rather than cycle power description
- o Creating permitting for an annual Summer Cycle Day ride, from 6 am to 3pm
- o Accelerating the ADA compliance per the ODOT lawsuit requirement of HCRH facilities; insuring vocal representation at all tables include the perspective of people with disabilities
- o Addition of bike racks for all RICs (recreation intensive classifications) for all overlapping Gorge sovereigns
- o Refinement of Eagle Creek exit 41 cross over of west bound cycles on a blind hill to see fast east bound exit vehicles...consider complete south aligned lane only, requiring white striping only
- o Initiate coordination of the HCRH with the Adventure Cycling' US Bicycle Route System
- o Coordinating web presence for entire HCRH cycling activities that all Sites can refer to Beyond Ready, Set, Go, Travel OR, OPRD, ODOT

Thanks for getting ready. I am presenting this proposal to the HCRH ODOT committee on June 17th. It would be good to hear a 'nod' yes if you think this would be valuable and if there is a willingness to participate in such an event in the future.

The HCRH ODOT meeting is from 1 to 3pm and the virtual Zoom event is at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82547369592?pwd=NW5xeGUxTDI2S0k0ZTNnU2tHQ2M1QT09> Meeting ID: 825 4736 9592 Passcode: HCRH\_AC

If there are question about HCRH ODOT, direct them to me. Their web page:

<https://www.oregon.gov/odot/Regions/Pages/HCRH-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

Again, thanks for all the previous support trying to increase safety in particular along the Mult Cty section of the HCRH.

Cheers,

Z

A. J. Zelada, OD

The 1918 view of Michell Point Tunnel and Adits (windows facing northward). The new Tunnel will have 5 adits! Think 2023!

