

Waterfall Corridor Timed Use Permits

BPCAC Meeting

May 10, 2023



Context

- ▶ Multi-Agency Coordination
- ▶ Continuing collaboration
- ▶ Shared goals and outcomes
- ▶ Baseline data
- ▶ Results:
 - ▶ High vehicle demand, low parking supply



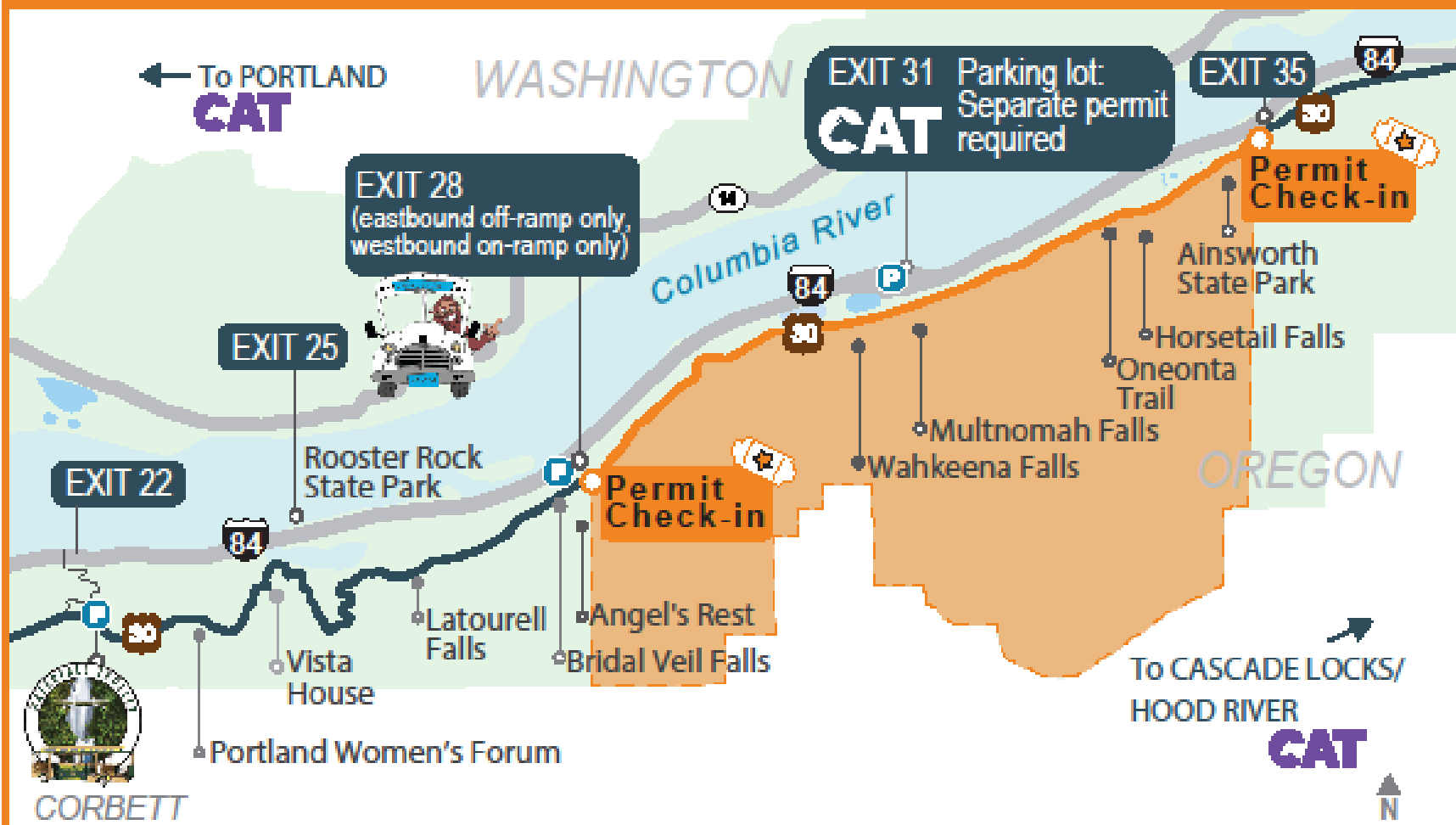
Historic Columbia River Highway Congestion and Transportation Safety Improvement Plan

FINAL June 2019

Pilot Goals

- ▶ Improve Safety
- ▶ Reduce Congestion
- ▶ Improve Visitor Experience





← To PORTLAND
CAT

CAT EXIT 31 Parking lot: Separate permit required

EXIT 35
Permit Check-in

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

EXIT 25

Rooster Rock State Park

EXIT 22

84

Vista House

Latourell Falls

Angel's Rest
Bridal Veil Falls

Permit Check-in

Wahkeena Falls

Multnomah Falls

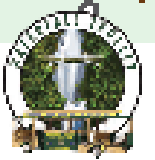
Oneonta Trail

Horsetail Falls



Ainsworth State Park

OREGON

To CASCADE LOCKS/
HOOD RIVER
CAT



CORBETT

-  Federal lands accessed by required Waterfall Corridor Permit
- CAT** Public transit provider
-  Parking for shuttles/transit



Gray Line Waterfall Trolley:
36901 E Historic
Columbia River Highway
Corbett, OR



Sasquatch Shuttle
1 West Mill Road
Bridal Veil, OR



Pilot Details

- ▶ Waterfall Corridor Timed Use permits
 - ▶ 60 available/hour online 9 am - 6 pm
 - ▶ 540 available per day
 - ▶ 50 available/day in person (no fee)
 - ▶ 49,633 issued through rec.gov, 1,532 issued in-person
- ▶ Multnomah Falls (I-84) Timed Use permits
 - ▶ 140-85 available/hour online 9 am - 6 pm
 - ▶ 910 available per day
 - ▶ No permits available in person
 - ▶ 79,670 permits issued

General Public Feedback

- ▶ The two permit system was confusing
 - ▶ Some bought both permits for the same time
 - ▶ Difference between I-84 and Historic Highway
- ▶ Visitors familiar with the area reported much less congestion, increased ability to park as compared with years past
- ▶ Misconception that the permits were a “fee”
- ▶ Uncertainty of pre-9 am and post-6 pm visits.



Multnomah Falls (I-84) Timed Use Permit

Enter date to see available times, or click for ticket details.

★★★★☆ (784)



Waterfall Corridor Timed Use Permit

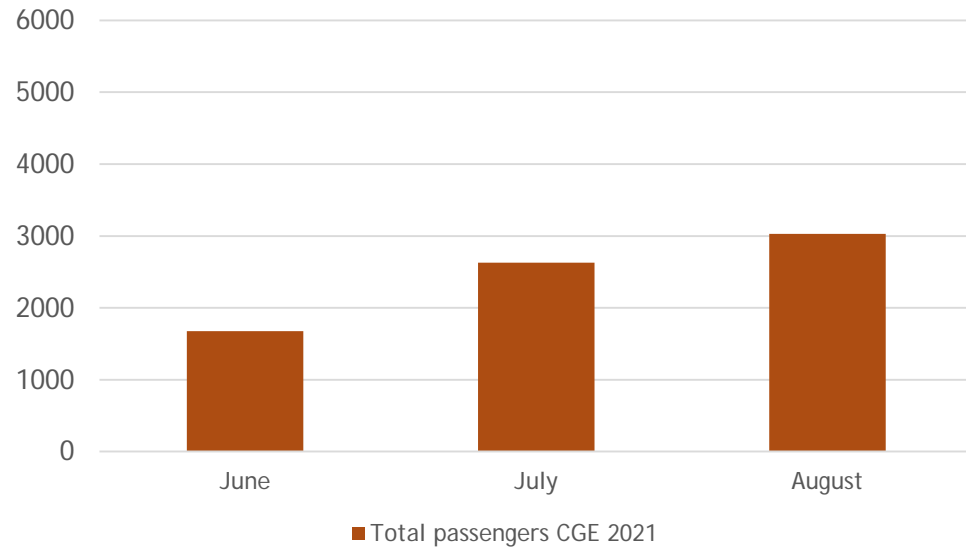
Enter date to see available times, or click for ticket details.

★★★★☆ (577)

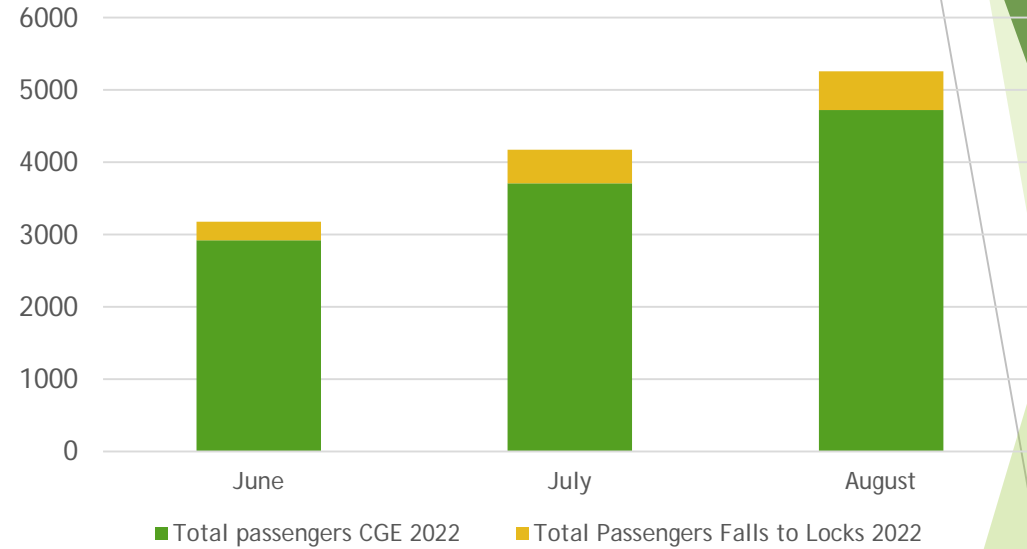


CAT Ridership

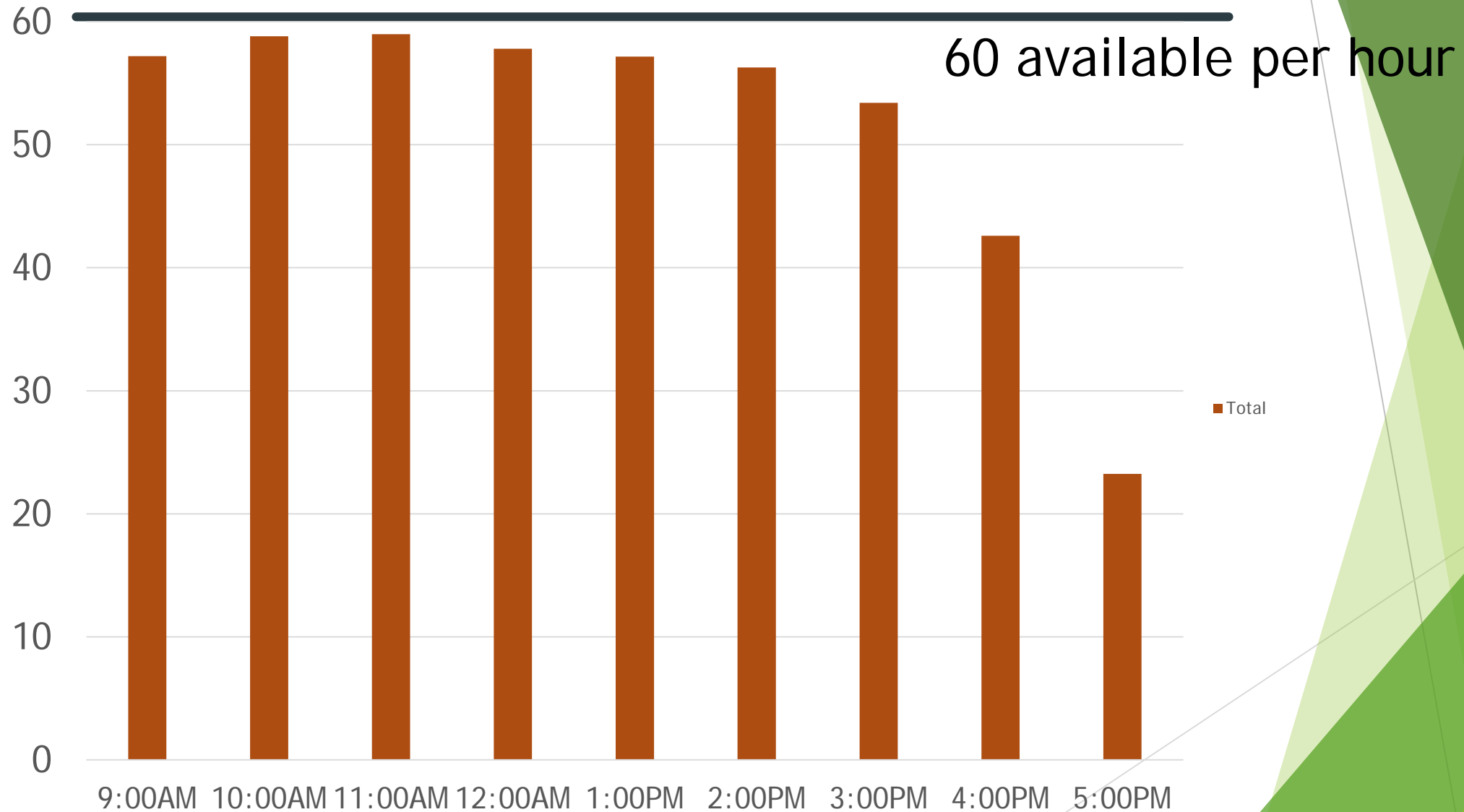
Total Passengers CGE 2021



CAT Total Passengers 2022

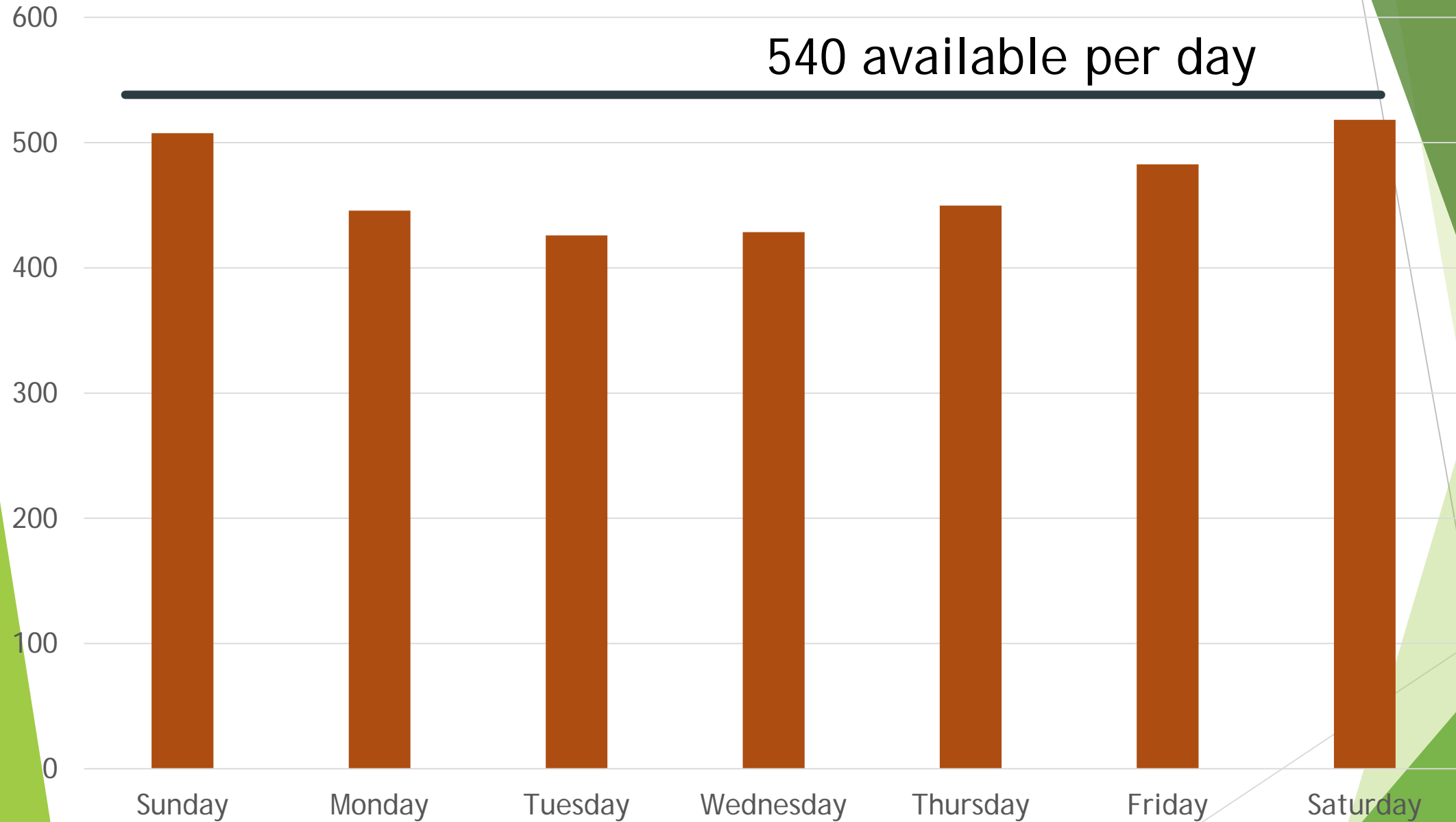


Waterfall Corridor Average Permits per Hour



Waterfall Corridor Average Permits by Day

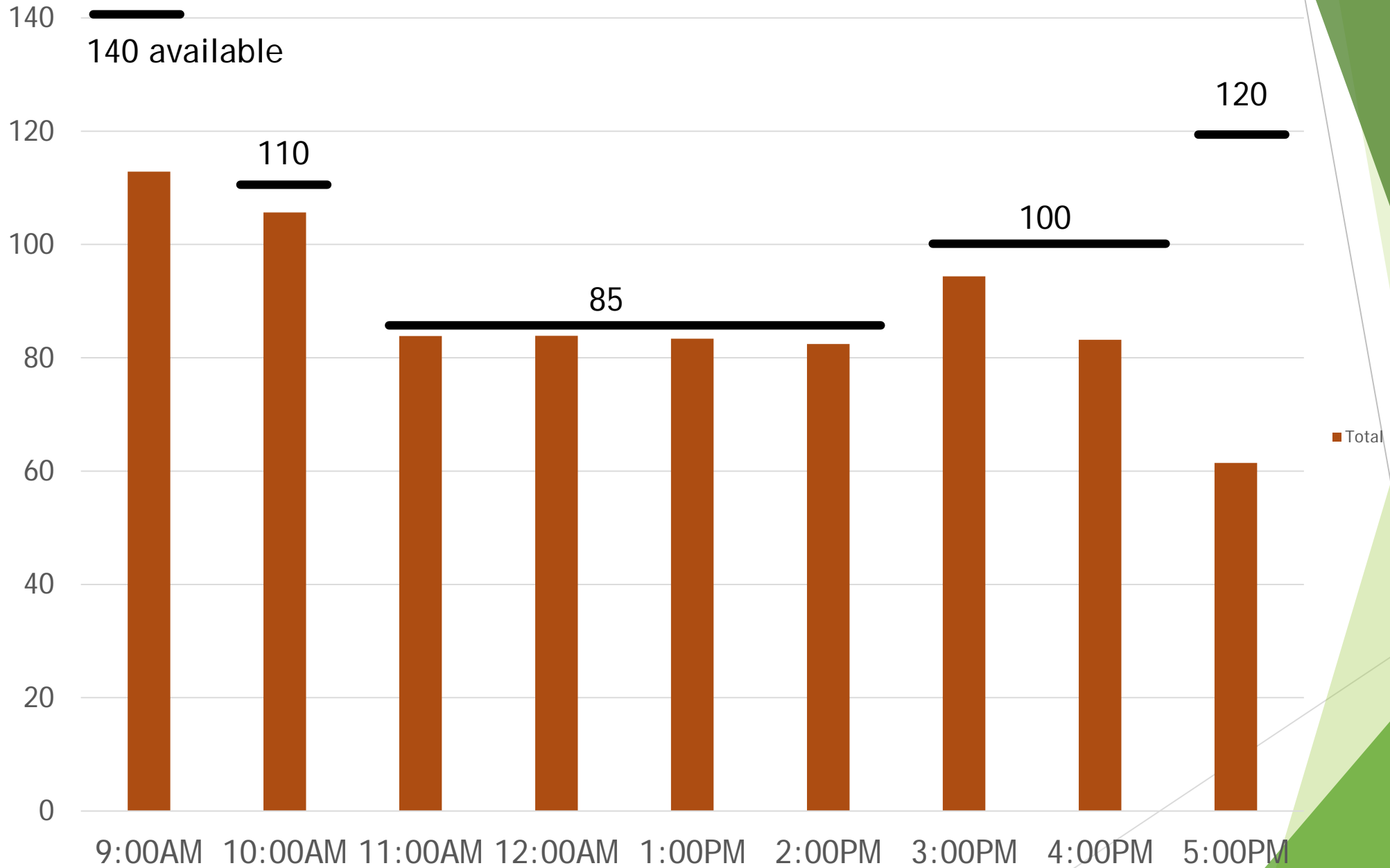
540 available per day



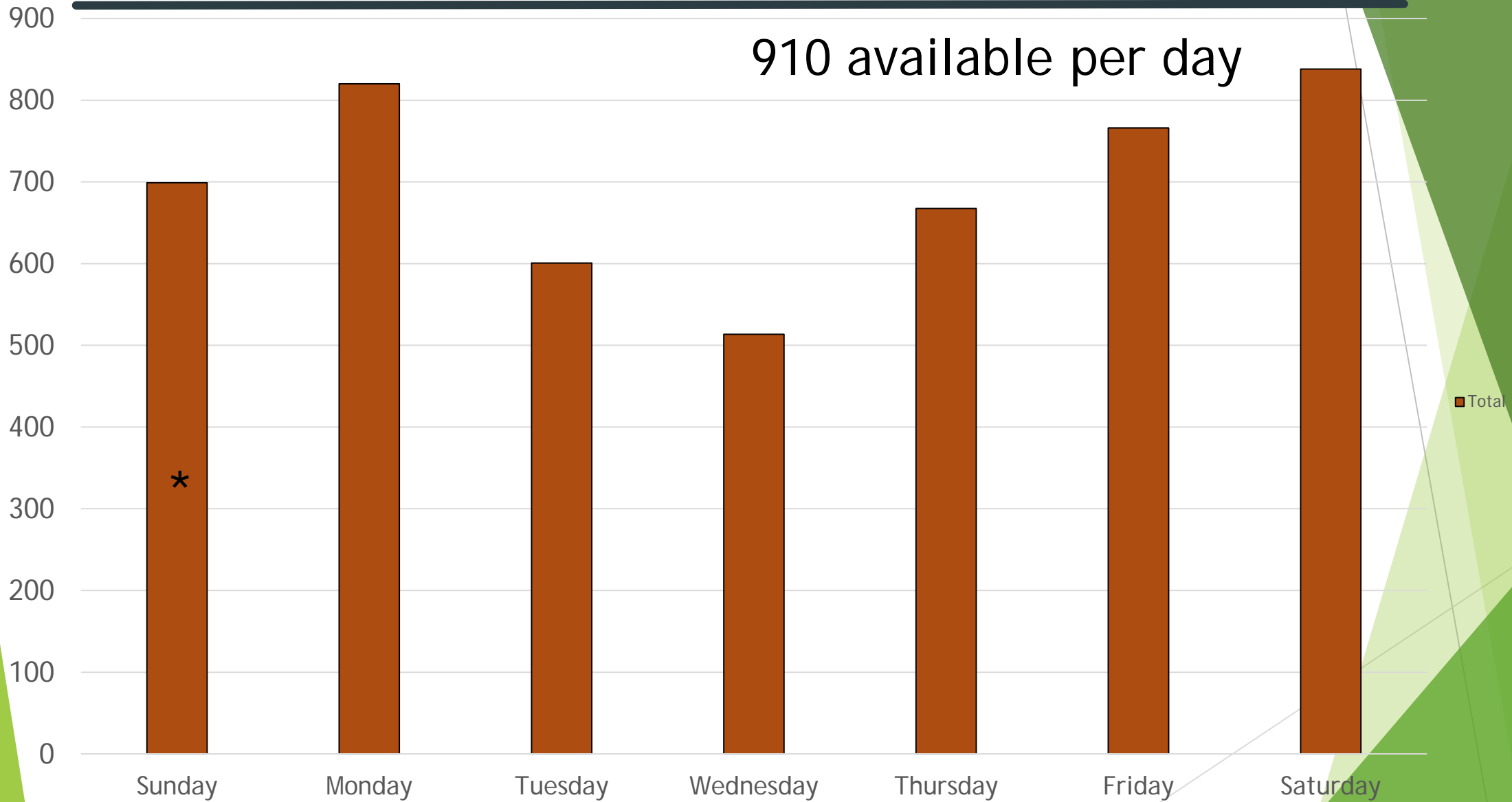
Multnomah Falls



Multnomah Falls Average Permits per Hour



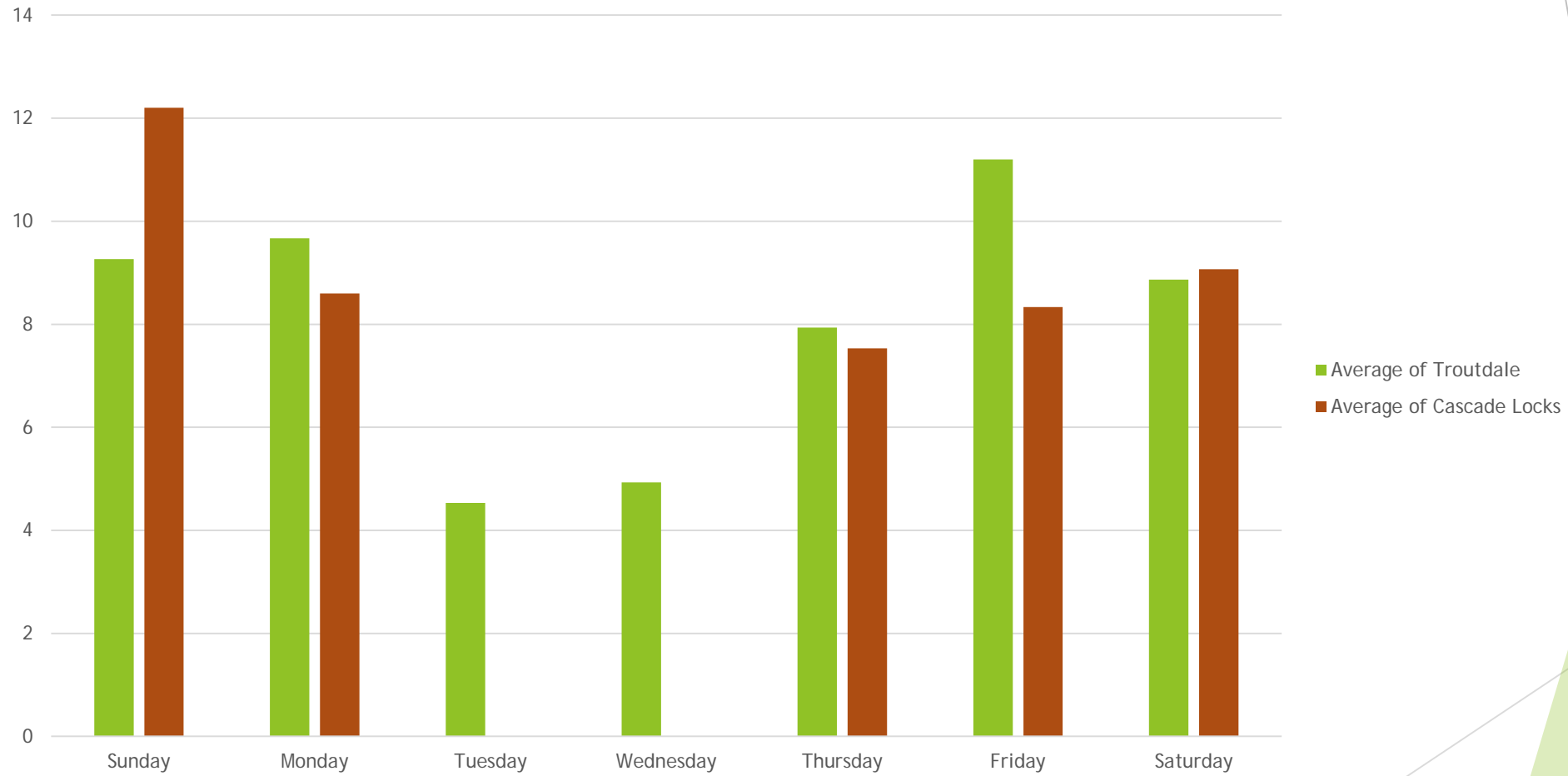
Multnomah Falls Average Permits per Day



* Data anomalies on Sunday, average permits likely much higher



In-person permits Average by Day





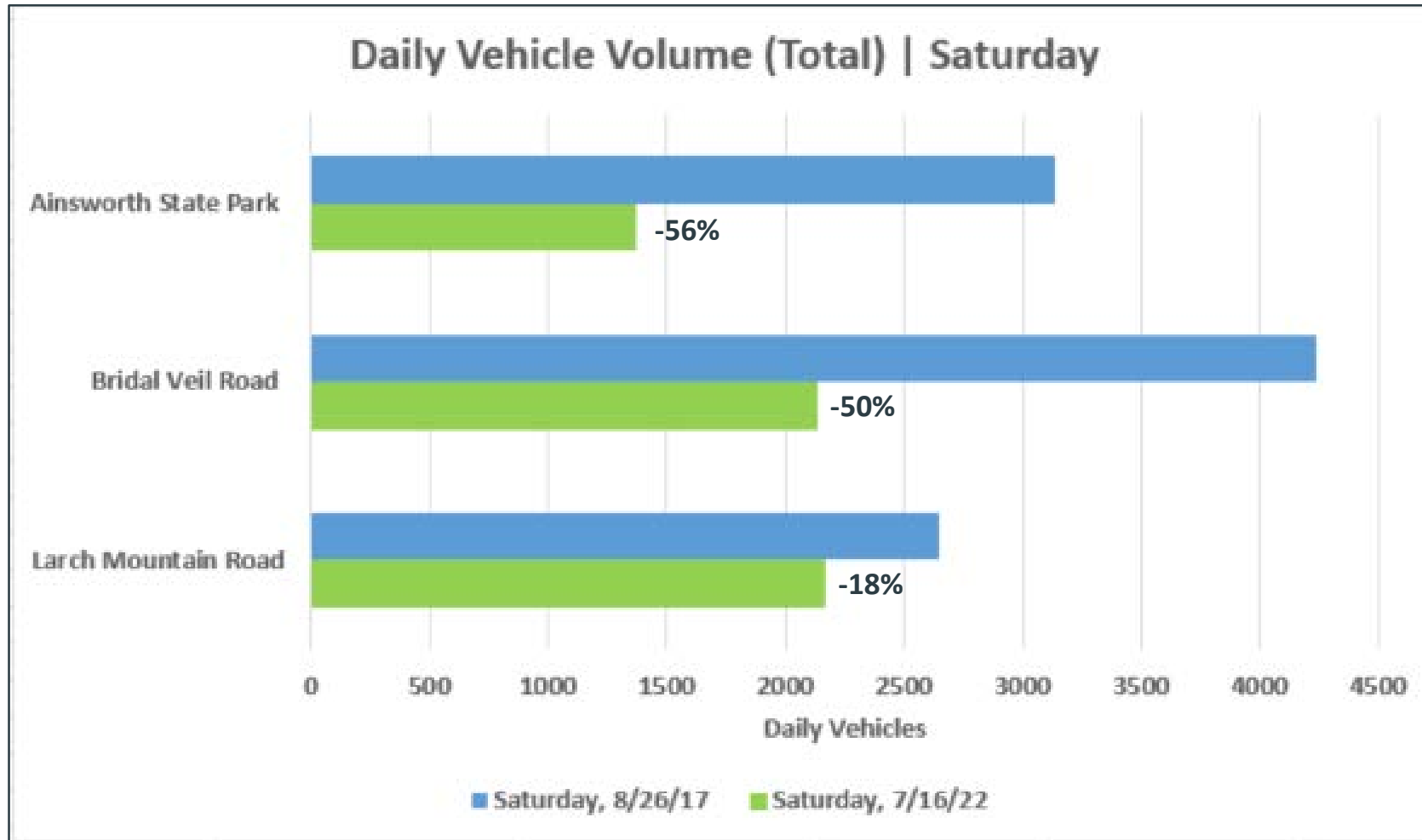
Goal Met: Improve Safety

- ▶ No significant change in crash reports
- ▶ EMS/Law enforcement corridor access

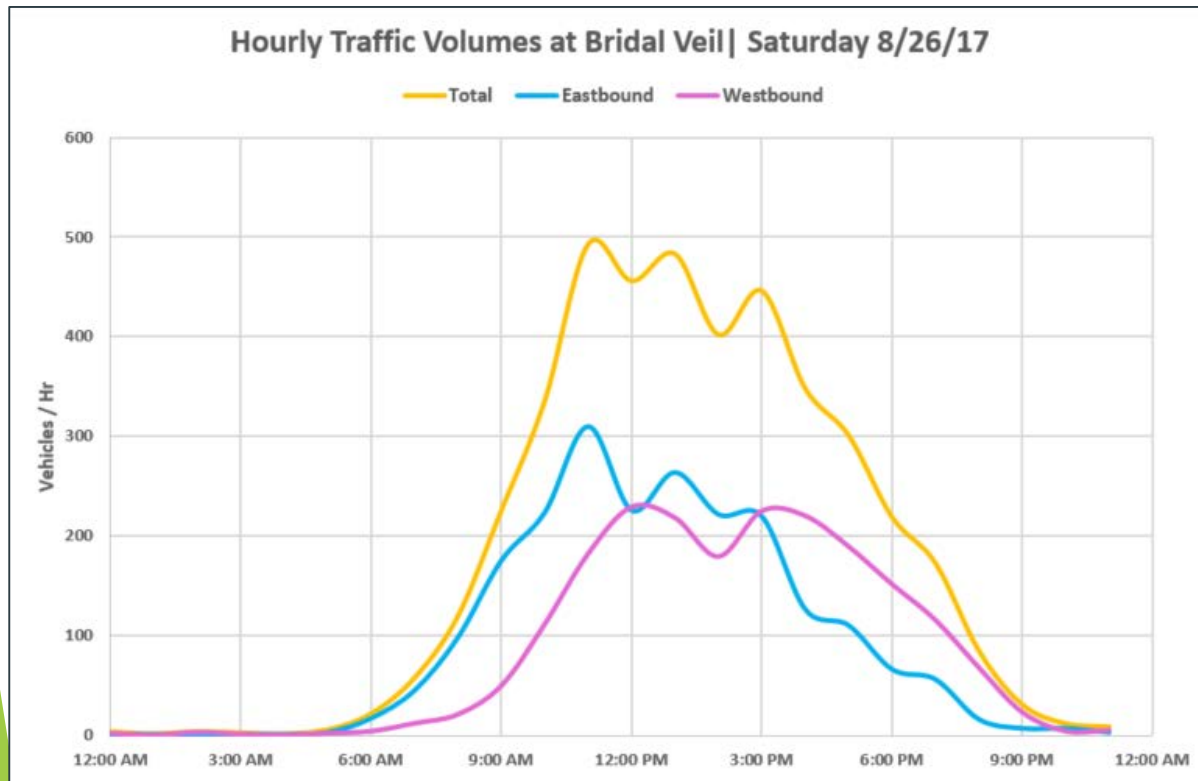
Goal Met: Reduce Congestion

- ▶ Traffic Volumes
- ▶ User feedback
- ▶ Neighbor feedback

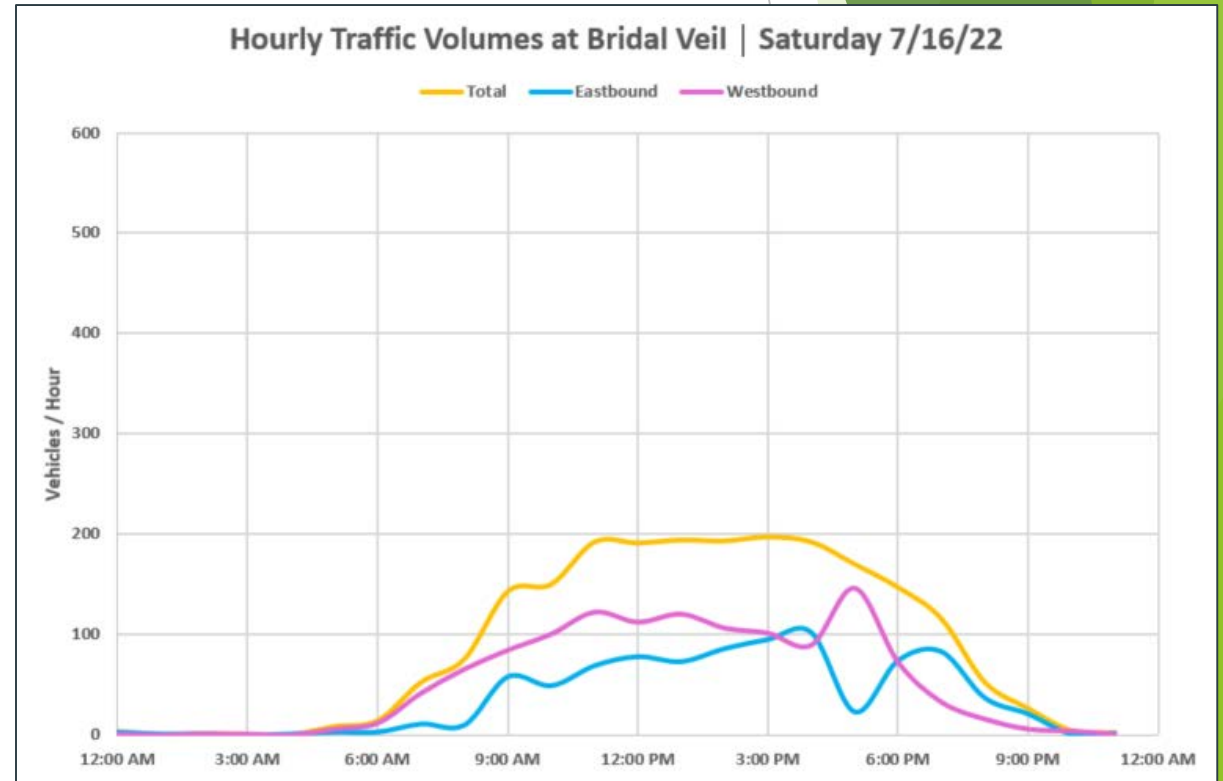
Preliminary Traffic Results - Volumes



Bridal Veil Road Saturday Vehicles/hour



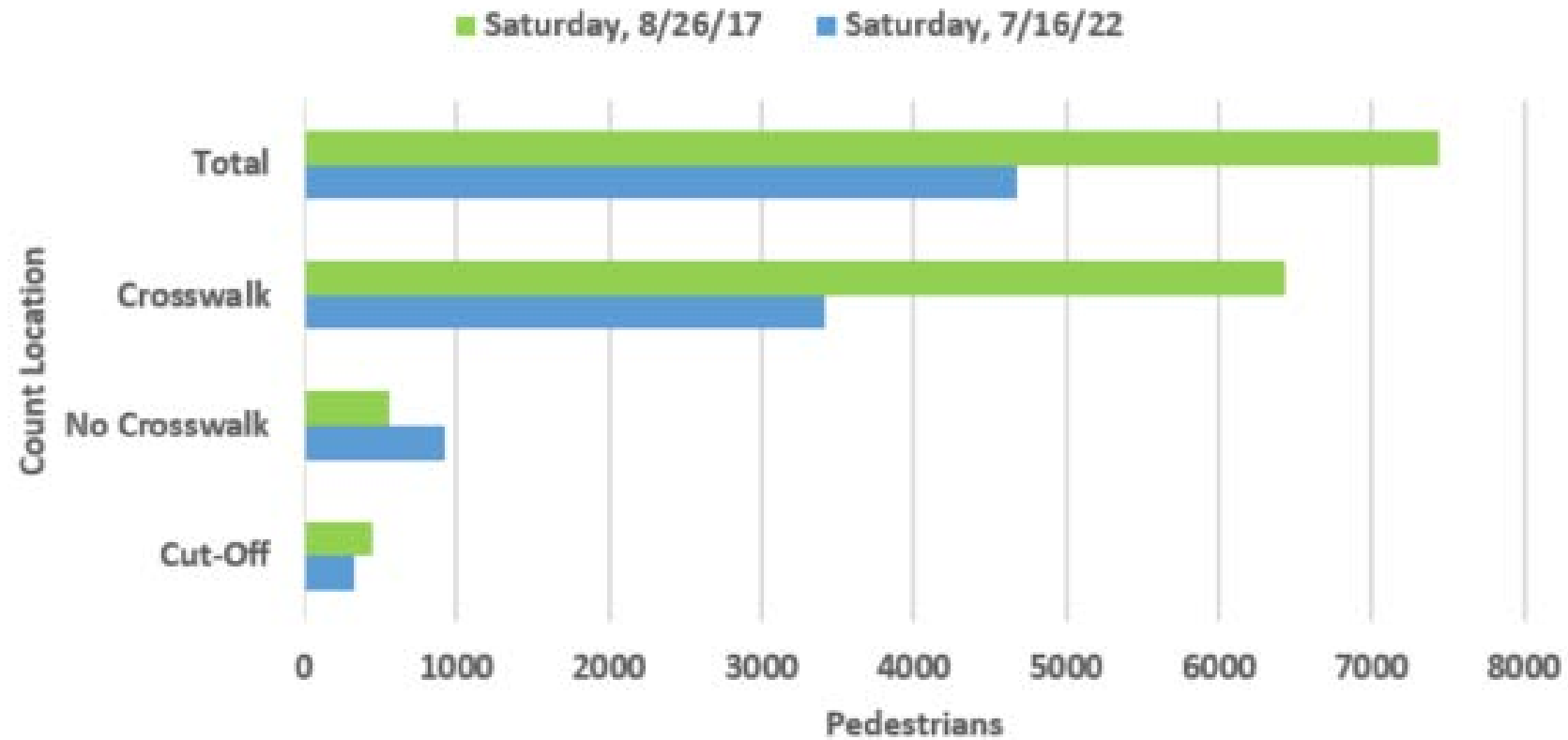
2017



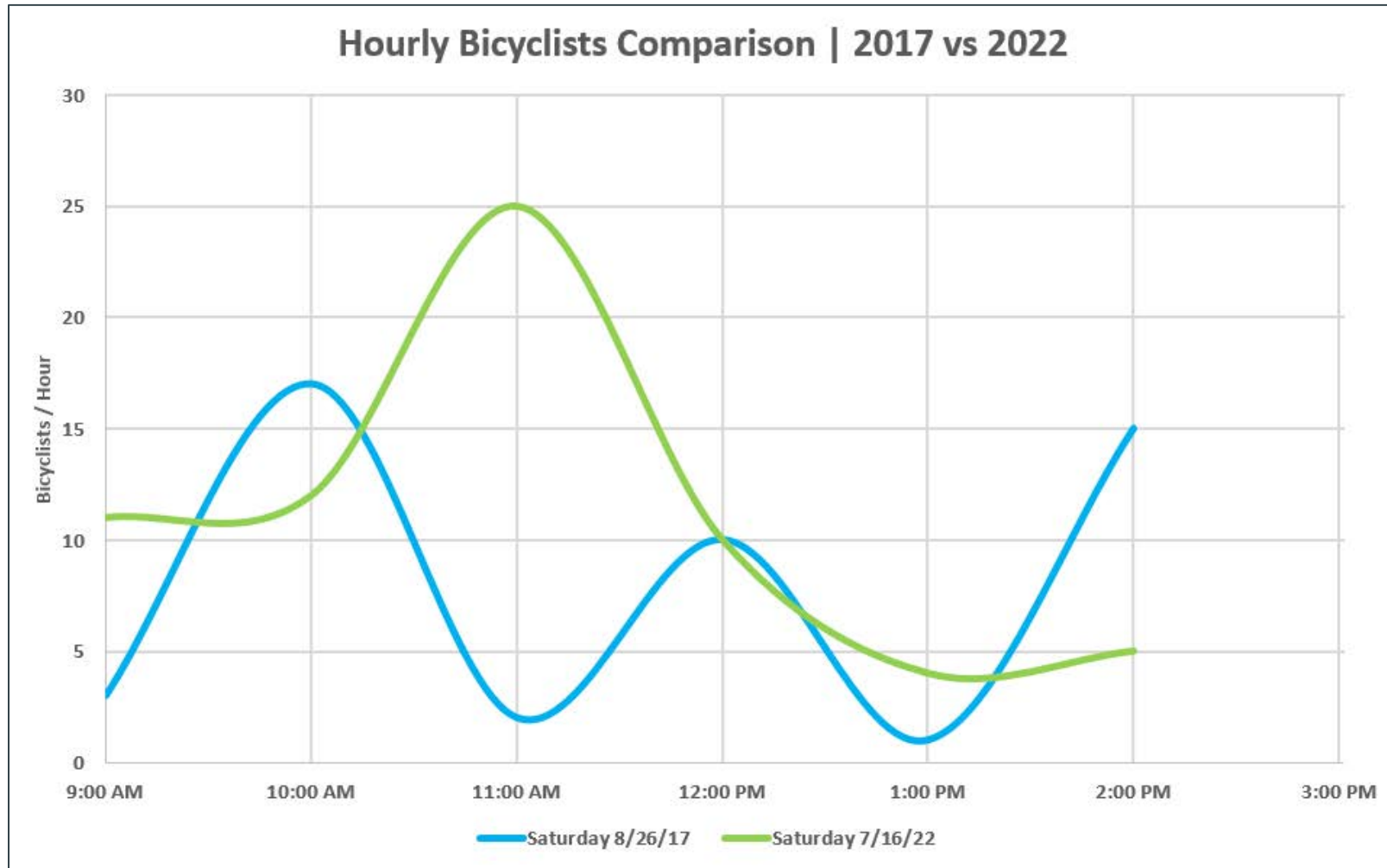
2022

Daily pedestrian volumes

Pedestrian Volumes at Multnomah Falls | 2017 vs 2022



Hourly Bicyclists at Multnomah Falls



Goal Met: Improve Visitor Experience

- ▶ Rec.gov feedback:
 - ▶ It was amazing to use this system to get the permit. The Falls were amazing! It wasn't crowded.
 - ▶ Very good idea smooth travel min crowds.
- ▶ General survey feedback:
 - ▶ I think this is a great step toward protecting the public spaces. It's true, they are very popular. But in years past the traffic has been unbearable. Much improved.
 - ▶ Permits were easy and convenient to reserve and use. Much less congestion.
- ▶ Resident feedback:
 - ▶ ...while I was (very!) skeptical at first, I will say that the pilot program this summer was well-executed and, from at least the perspectives of the residents I have spoken with, was successful. We never encountered very significant wait times and saw a marked reduction in unsafe driving, overuse, and misuse in our stretch of highway. We would gladly welcome the program again in future years.

But not everyone agreed

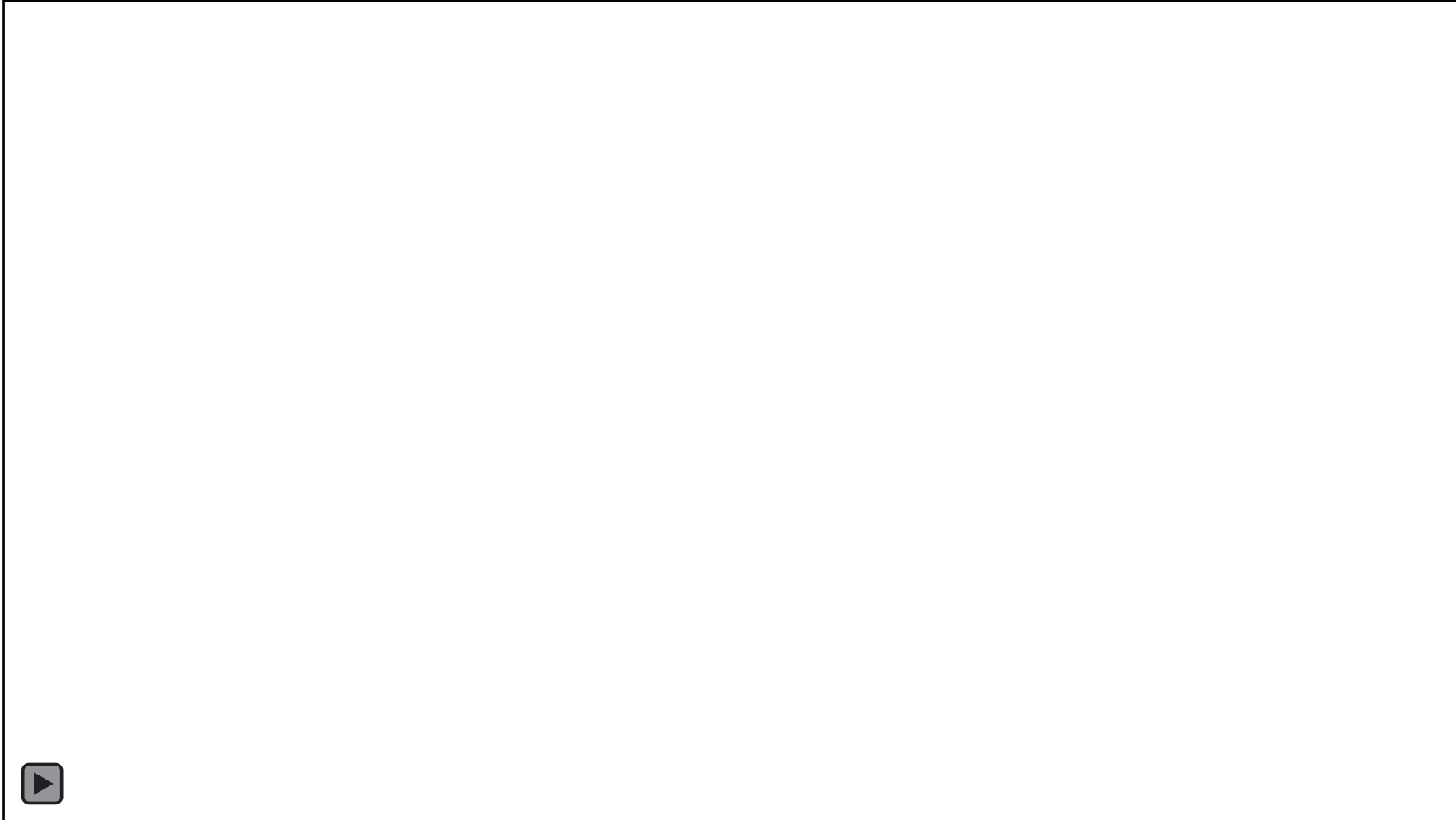
▶ Confusing System

- ▶ Good luck trying to book a pass for more than one person. The **checkout procedure** is the worst
- ▶ We found timed tickets very **stressful**. Trying to estimate what time you would get to a particular location when you are out for the day. In the end we bought several for the same day to give us options. Be aware, visitor centre closes before last timed ticket.
- ▶ This was terrible. We were on our way to Multnomah Falls on the scenic route when we saw this sign about timed use permits, not even knowing what it referred to. Then we had to stop, **download an app and pay the fee**, delaying us about 15 minutes. Then when we got to the Falls there was **no parking anyway**, so we just kept going. Much better would have been the people assigned to stop cars to collect \$2 from every car and give them a sticker! This was a terrible way to do it! What do people from other countries, elderly, and those without smart phones do?

▶ No Parking Available

- ▶ Forced to pay \$2 just to drive down the highway and find out there was **no parking anywhere**. Had to drive all the way back to the interstate just to make a u turn and park in the interstate access where there was plenty of free parking.
- ▶ I had timed ticket for Multnomah Falls, but we had to skip it - **parking was full** and there was a queue of cars waiting for a parking spot. For us it means that this system doesn't work.

What happens without the pilot? Illegal maneuvers



Video courtesy of a concerned citizen

Summer 2023

- ▶ Timed Use Permits only at Multnomah Falls (I-84 lot), exit 31
 - ▶ May 26-Sept 4, 9 am - 6 pm
- ▶ Match demand to available parking
- ▶ Traffic flagger at Multnomah Falls
- ▶ Historic Highway Multnomah Falls parking lot management

Questions

Terra.m.Lingley@odot.Oregon.gov

(503) 351-0420