



Hood River County Community Development

Planning, Building Codes, Code Compliance, Economic Development & GIS

601 State Street, Hood River, OR 97031

ERIC WALKER, DIRECTOR

(541) 387-6840 • plan.dept@co.hood-river.or.us

September 25, 2019

To: Terra Lingley, Oregon Department of Transportation, Applicant (*US Mail*)
Adjacent Property Owners (*US Mail*)

Krystyna Wolniakowski, Columbia River Gorge Commission (*via email*)
Mike Odom, Federal Highway Administration (*via email*)
Christopher Donnermeyer, USFS – National Scenic Area Office (*via email*)
Robin Shoal, USFS – National Scenic Area Office (*via email*)
Morai Helfen, USFS – National Scenic Area Office (*via email*)
Casey Gatz, USFS – National Scenic Area Office (*via email*)
Brian Zabel, US Army Corps of Engineers (*via email*)
Arthur Babitz, Historic Columbia River Highway Advisory Committee (*via email*)
Robin Wilcox, Oregon Parks and Recreation District (*via email*)
Heidi Hartman, Oregon Department of State Lands (*via email*)
Rod French, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (*via email*)
Kristin Dodd, Oregon Department of Forestry (*via email*)
Loretta Kieffer, Oregon Department of Transportation (District 2C) (*via email*)
Sarah Jalving, State Historic Preservation Office (*via email*)
Sue Vrilakas, Natural Heritage Program (*via email*)
Kristin Tiede, Confederation of Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (*via email*)
Christian Nauer, Confederation of Tribes of Warm Springs (*via email*)
Nakia Williamson, Nez Perce Tribe (*via email*)
Johnson Meninick, Yakama Indian Nation (*via email*)
Kevin Bracy, Planning Consultant, David Evans and Associates, Inc (*via email*)
Brian Beebe, County Dept. of Records and Assessment (*via email*)
Duane Ely, County Dept. of Records and Assessment (*via email*)
Steve McCoy, Friends of the Columbia Gorge (*via email, subscription holder*)

From: Nick Kraemer, Senior Planner

Re: National Scenic Area – Land Use Permit #415-19-0162

Request: Oregon Department of Transportation has made application to build a 4.13 mile long extension of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail between Viento State Park and Mitchell Point Crossing, adjacent to Interstate 84. Improvements proposed as part of this application include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- Grade, pave, and install drainage for a 4.13-mile-long asphalt multi-use trail connecting Historic Highway segments. The paved trail would be a maximum of 12 feet wide with 2-foot gravel shoulders on each side (16 foot wide corridor). Grades along the path would generally be up to 5.0 percent;
- Incorporation of remnant abandoned sections of the Historic Highway in the trail alignment;

- Redesign of the existing trailhead at the Viento State Park Parking lot (Exit 56 interchange of I-84) that includes reconstructing portions of the trail to the south of the existing parking lot and extending the trail east across an existing box culvert over Viento Creek;
- Separate the access to the Viento State Park Maintenance Facility from portions of the trail;
- Make improvements to the South Viento State Park Campground that include changes to the layout, adding paved back-in vehicular parking at the sites, adding a campground host site, and adding a new information kiosk at the entrance to the campground;
- Construct a new restroom in the South Viento State Park Campground that includes (4) single-user flushing bathrooms, drinking water fountains, and a maintenance room at the location of the existing restroom;
- Remove and revegetate existing user-created trails adjacent to the South Viento State Park Campground. Construct low-impact gravel trail and eight (8) hiker/biker low-impact gravel camp pads south of the South Viento State Park Campground. Construct three-sided shelters in four (4) of the hiker/biker gravel camp pads. Install a “bike pod” - which consists of a kiosk with lockers and a bench to serve hiker/biker gravel camp pads;
- Make improvements to the existing OPRD Viento State Park Maintenance Facility including grading, paving to improve parking and circulation, existing structure improvements and expansion, fencing, and vegetative screening from the new trail section;
- Install rockfall fences, bolt rocks and rockfall mesh throughout the trail alignment to mitigate rockfall hazard both on the trail and adjacent to I-84 and install temporary rock containment devices during construction;
- Redesign the existing Mitchell Point Parking lot/trailhead to accommodate 18 parking spaces. The redesign also includes off-ramp paving, installation of wayfinding signs, construction of stone masonry railing, and construction of a scenic overlook on the west side of Mitchell Point (Exit 58 interchange of I-84);
- Replace the single vault toilet at the Mitchell Point Parking lot/trailhead with a larger double vault toilet;
- Construct a 661 foot long tunnel through Mitchell Point including five adits (windows);
- Stabilize cut/fill slopes from trail construction throughout the trail alignment;
- Construct retaining walls including rockery walls, mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) walls, and vegetated reinforced soil slope walls as needed for trail construction;
- Install concrete retaining walls with architectural form liner faces to separate the proposed trail from adjacent I-84 traffic in areas where the trail is directly adjacent to I-84;
- Construct two pedestrian and bicycle bridges, one over Perham Creek (72 feet long) and one over Mitchell Creek (43 feet long);
- Replace and lengthen the existing culvert at an unnamed creek at Mitchell Point entrance (Exit 58 interchange of I-84);
- Install new culvert for an unnamed creek at the west end of Mitchell Point Drive;
- Stain existing binwall at milepost 55.1 on I-84;
- Restore native vegetation by removing weeds and restoring habitats;
- Install various interpretation and informational signage throughout the trail alignment;
- Complete various landscaping improvements throughout the trail alignment.

Location and Zoning: The proposed project sites are located along the Historic Columbia River Highway between Viento State Park and Mitchell Point Crossing. Some segments of the proposed trail will occur

within the I-84 highway right-of-way, while other segments will occur on State and Federal owned properties, including those described as: 3N 9E 34 #400 and adjacent highway right-of-way (ROW); 3N 9E 35 #100, 101, and adjacent ROW; 3N 09E 36 #100 and adjacent ROW; 3N 10E 31 #100, 101, 103, 200, 300 and adjacent ROW and 3N 10E 32 #700 (*See attached vicinity map.*) The project sites are zoned Open Space, Forest, and Public Recreation within the Special Management Area (SMA) of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

Resources: Scenic: The project sites are primarily visible from Interstate 84 and the Historic Columbia River Highway, but portions are also visible from Washington State Route 14, Cook-Underwood Road, Dog Mountain Trail, and the Columbia River. Natural: Parts of the project are proposed to occur near certain natural areas, such as wetlands, stream, talus slopes, mature Douglas fir trees, and cliffs. A biological resources report was prepared to identify these significant natural resources and to determine the potential impacts that might occur as a result of this project. Cultural: Archaeological Fieldwork was completed by archaeologists with the University of Oregon and reviewed by the USDA Forest Service (*National Scenic Area Office*) and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office. Recreational: Recreational sites located in proximity to the proposed trail include Viento State Park and Mitchell Point Trailhead.

Response: If you have comments regarding this application, please respond by **5:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2019.**¹

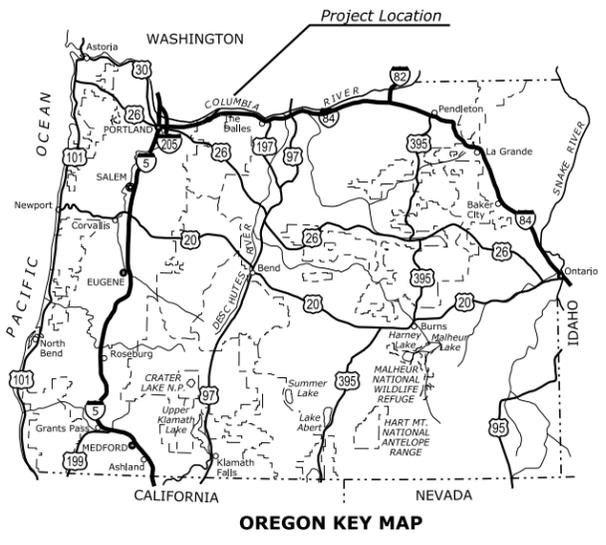
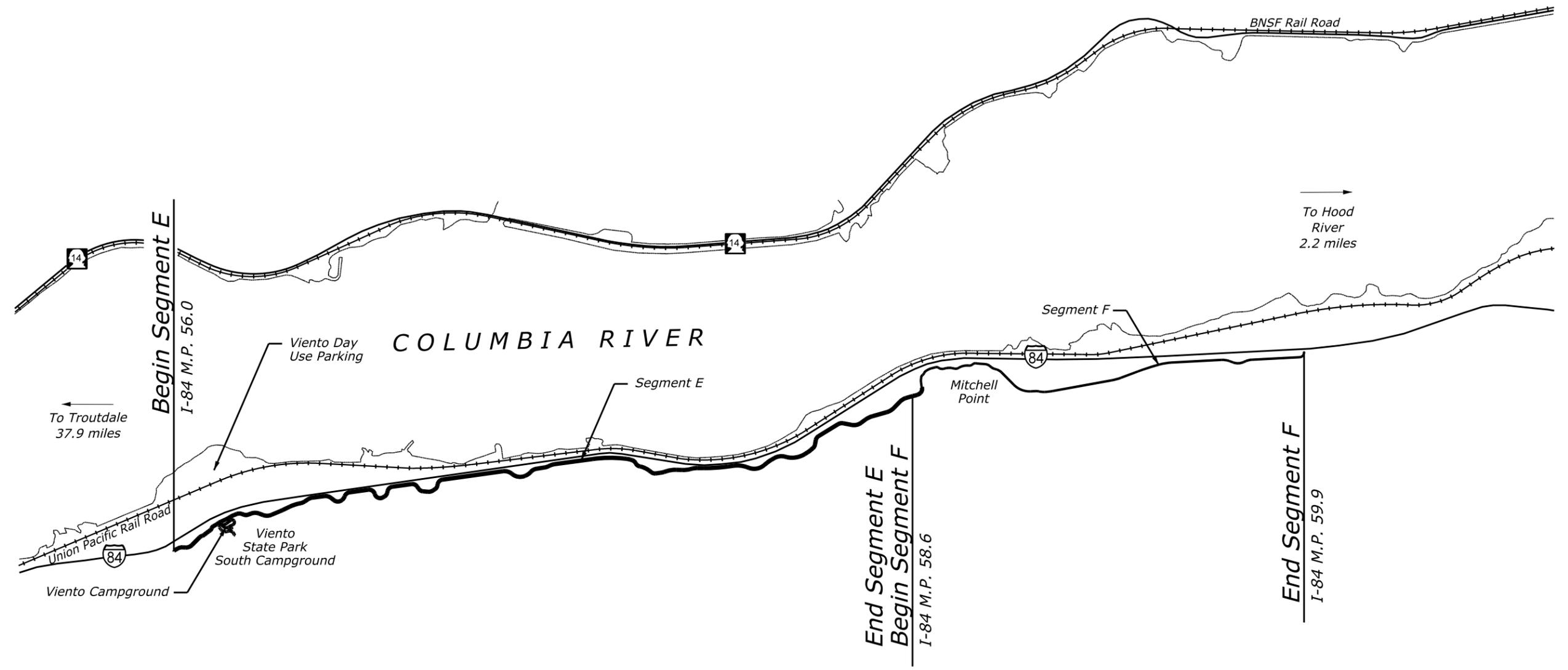
Decision Date: Due to a large volume of applications, the County Planning Department is experiencing longer than normal review times. As a result, staff is unable to accurately estimate a specific date when a decision will be rendered on this application. Staff estimates that it could take approximately 3 to 4 months from the date of this notice to render a decision.

Available Information: A copy of the application and supporting documents are available for review at <http://hrccd.co.hood-river.or.us/>. (*Click Departments, click Planning and Zoning, scroll down to the section Important Land Use Actions, Legislative Amendments, or Special Projects, and then click on the link "Application 415-19-0162-PLNG"*) This information is also available for inspection and/or purchase at the County Planning Department during normal working hours. If you would like additional information or have questions, please contact Nick Kraemer, Senior Planner, at the Hood River County Planning Department at (541) 387-6875 or by email at nick.kraemer@co.hood-river.or.us.

NOTICE TO MORTGAGEE, LIEN HOLDER, VENDOR OR SELLER: ORS CHAPTER 215 REQUIRES THAT IF YOU RECEIVE THIS NOTICE, IT MUST PROMPTLY BE FORWARDED.

¹ Pursuant to Article 75, Section 120 (3) of the Hood River County Zoning Ordinance, the State Historic Preservation Officers and four Indian tribal governments shall have until **5:00 pm, Friday, October 25, 2019** to submit comments on the cultural resources survey provided to them.

STATE	PROJECT	SHEET NUMBER
OR	DOT CRGNSA 100(4)	NSA-1



Legend

- "Segment E" Alignment
- "Segment F" Alignment



HCRH STATE TRAIL SEGMENTS E & F SITE PLAN & VICINITY MAP

20 August 2019 9:12 AM
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 Designed by: Dan Ilyin
 Checked by: Ron Larson