

Port Report



Busy Bridge Season

Due to the growing popularity of the National Scenic Area, the summer months are the heavy use season at the Bridge. On weekends and some evenings you can expect traffic to be backed up. We'd like to share some helpful tips to keep the cars flowing through the toll booth with ease. Be ready! As you approach the Bridge Toll Booth, have your money or coupon ready to give to the Toll Collector. This will help your crossing efficiency at the Bridge. Consider using cash or coupons instead of credit and debit cards. Coupons may be purchased in both \$20 and \$40 books at the Toll Booth. When you use the coupons, your cost is \$1 per crossing for 2 axle vehicles. Do not speed. The posted limit on the Bridge is 15 miles per hour. This speed not only helps preserve the Bridge, it expedites your crossing. Again this season the Hood River County Sheriff and the Washington State Patrol will occasionally be using radar to monitor vehicle speeds as they cross the Bridge. If you have questions about Port policy, tolls or operations do not ask the Toll Collector; call the Port offices at 541-374-2400. Even short discussions at the Toll Booth will back up traffic and we want to avoid that. If you have a complaint, the Port GM would like to hear it. The Port does have a 15 Year Maintenance and Preservation plan for the Bridge. We now know what it takes to keep this regional asset operating at 80,000 lbs. and providing you with a convenient way to cross the river to get where you are going. The total Plan identifies the need for \$57 million and anticipates federal and state help. The Plan includes a bike and pedestrian crossing addition to the bridge as well as automation of the toll process. There is significantly more traffic in the entire National Scenic Area and the BOG is one of three places to cross the river for many of our visitors and residents. Consider altering your schedule and crossing the BOG earlier or later than normal. Sometimes 15 or 20 minutes can make a difference.

Bridge of the Gods Manager Hired

Ryan Vollans has been hired by the Port as the new Bridge Manager. Ryan will oversee operation of the Toll Booth, coordinate maintenance and oversee the work of the bridge engineer, including the new technology project. Ryan will begin his new assignment by spending a lot of time at the Toll Booth getting to understand the operation and the people. In the next few months, Ryan will begin spending more time with both ODOT and WSDOT and coordinating with the RTC regarding the BOG. Ryan was selected following three separate recruiting efforts to get just the right person. The Port is privileged to have Ryan on board.

BOG Repairs

On June 9, ODOT crews will be on the Bridge of the Gods doing some repair work related to the stringers on the Bridge. Bridge customers can expect some delays in crossing the bridge as one lane traffic will be allowed during the repairs. Flaggers will be on the bridge to ensure that traffic is managed and to reduce wait times during the work.

Approval on State Loan

On May 8th the Port received notice of a loan award from the Oregon Business, Infrastructure Finance Authority (IFA) to construct two light industrial buildings at the Herman Creek Lane Business Complex. The Port has two existing (occupied) buildings at this site and tenants are ready to move into the new buildings once complete. Construction is scheduled to begin June 22nd for the first building and later this summer on the second building. Commission President Jesse Groves complimented the IFA representatives for their prompt response to our application and their professional assistance during the application process.



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Pony Building Update

Following about 9 months of work and meetings, the Pony Building Advisory Team completed its work. The Team was created by the Port Commission to study the need for a new building to house the Oregon Pony. Armed with a grant for \$10,000 from Union Pacific Railroad, the Team worked with architect Mark Seder and engineer Jim Bussard. The team looked at 5 different locations for placement of the new structure. On May 17, we held a community listening session and heard from local citizens regarding the work of the Team. As a result of this effort, the Team has developed a preferred location for the new structure as well as a new basic design for the building. One of the recommendations to the Port Commission deals with the creation of a new committee to carry on from here. The new committee will pull together the Museum Board, City Tourism Committee and the Port into a partnership to move this project forward over the next few years. The Team will present their final recommendation to the Port Commission on June 1.

Campground Season Opens

The Port is delighted to welcome back camp hosts, Gretchen and Allen Baker, who were with us last summer season. They bring a wealth of hosting experience and knowledge to help refine our campground program. This year we've implemented a \$5 reservation fee in an effort to increase revenue. This is a typical charge for most state parks. Our reservation season began on May 15th and already some major summer weekends are fully booked.

FEMA Security Grant

In 2015 the Port received a Security Grant from FEMA. The first phase starting in June will include: bringing fiber optic cable from the toll booth to Marine Park. Other benefits include the installation of 7 new surveillance cameras on the Bridge. This phase will also include upgrading alarm equipment for fire and intrusion at the toll booth and the buildings at Marine Park. The grant is for \$160,000. The Port matched 25%.

JUNE

10 REI Mtn. Biking Workshop
14-18 Laser Performance Clinic
17 CGRA Opening Day & BBQ
23-25 Mountain Men Rendezvous
26-29 Wind Clinic

JULY

6/28-7/3 Gem & Mineral Show
1-2 Wind Regatta
2-5 Laser Performance Clinic
4 4th of July Fireworks
6 Blowout
7-9 Laser Masters US Nationals
10-12 29er Clinic
14 Movie in the Park: Sing!
11-15 Laser Performance Clinic
14-16 Skiff Regatta
17-22 Melges 24 North Americans
28 Movie in the Park: Mulan
28-30 CGOD
30 REI Mtn. Biking Workshop

CITY JOB OPENING

City of Cascade Locks is looking for Tourism Support Staff. This person would support the Tourism Committee and help make recommendations to the City. This is a contract position. Approx. 20 hours per week. If interested; call for 541-374-8484 for more information.