MINUTES

<u>CITY COUNCIL MEETING</u> <u>COUNCIL CHAMBER, CITY HALL</u> <u>FEBRUARY 10, 2024</u> 5:30 p.m.

VIA ZOOM/ IN PERSON

PRESIDING:	Mayor Richard Mays
COUNCIL PRESENT:	Ben Wring, Tim McGlothlin, Rod Runyon, Scott Randall, Dan Richardson
COUNCIL ABSENT:	None
STAFF PRESENT:	City Manager Matthew Klebes, City Attorney Jonathan Kara, City Clerk Amie Ell, Public Works Interim Deputy Director Dale McCabe, Police Chief Tom Worthy, Community Development Director Joshua Chandler, Senior Planner Sandy Freund
CALL TO ORDER	

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mays at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL

Roll Call was conducted by City Clerk Ell. Wring, McGlothlin, Runyon, Randall, Richardson, Mays present

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Mays asked Councilor Wring to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilor Wring invited the audience to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

It was moved by Wring and seconded by Randall to approve the agenda as submitted. The motion carried 5 to 0, Wring, Randall, McGlothlin, Richardson, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

PRESENTATIONS PROCLAMATIONS

Gorge Transit 2025 Regional Update

Kathy Fitzpatrick, Mid-Columbia Economic District (MCED) Senior Project/Mobility Manager, introduced Jose Mendoza and Emily Reed of LINK. They presented an overview and updates of the Gorge Transit System. (see attached)

Fitzpatrick said the CAT had 17 drivers and this meant they were fully staffed.

Richardson confirmed that they gave free rides to people going to the emergency shelters at the Gloria Center.

Klebes noted the City had a long-standing partnership with MCED which included providing funding. He said they had recently submitted a request for the upcoming budget cycle for the LINK system.

Historic Landmarks Commission 2025 Goals

Sandy Freund, Senior Planner with The Dalles Planning Department presented highlights of the 2025 Historic Landmarks Commission Goals.

Richardson noted that the town had several historic large trees, most notably sycamores planted around 150 years ago. He suggested this could be a future topic of discussion, as they were an intentional and historic feature that, once lost, could not be easily replaced.

Mayor Mays asked for clarification on goal number 6 regarding the inventory of the Pioneer Cemetery.

Joshua Chandler, Community Development Director said the cemetery had an old preservation plan dating back to the early 2000s, which included a list of individuals and significant community members buried there. The goal focused on ensuring the information was accurate, accessible, and easy to navigate.

Federal Street Plaza Update and Open House

City Manager Matthew Klebes presented an overview of the proposed Plaza designs, noting that a detailed presentation was included in the Council packet. He announced an open house at Freebridge to gather community feedback on two design options, with committee members and Walker-Macy consultants present. The ad hoc committee had been meeting regularly to finalize a

design and cost estimates within the next month. The designs proposed closing Federal Street between First and Second Streets to create the Plaza. The first design, "River City," featured shade structures and porch swings. Both designs included a splash pad, and a bike hub coordinated with the Columbia Gorge Scenic Bike Trail and First Street streetscape project. Committee discussions had also centered on repurposing the transportation building for an active use to enhance and maintain the Plaza. Both renderings depicted seating, greenery, and flexible event space, distinguishing it from Lewis and Clark Festival Park. The second design, "Basalt," included canopy structures for shade, basalt rock seating, and similar amenities, though concerns were raised about long-term canopy maintenance. Both designs emphasized shaded spaces and integrated water features suited to The Dalles' climate.

Klebes reported 39 survey responses had been received so far, with feedback highlighting the need for shade, greenery, event space, vendor accommodations, and strong community engagement. Concerns included parking loss, accessibility, sustainability, and maintenance. He clarified that the project was separate from the Tony site and involved Federal Street between First and Second Streets.

Mayor Mays recognized the ad hoc committee included Councilors Richardson and Wring, along with Betz Selzer, owner of The Farm Stand on Third Street; Marcus Swift, a member of the Urban Renewal and Park District boards; Steve Light, owner of Freebridge Brewery and host of the upcoming open house; and Kristen Lillvik, who also served on Urban Renewal. He commended the committee's hard work, noting they had held seven public meetings and had made significant progress. He encouraged community participation at the February 12th open house at Freebridge.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Lisa Farquharson, CEO of The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, provided an update on tourism activities. She shared the "Explore Local" campaign with KATU had completed, featuring eight local businesses through interviews and 15-second commercials. She noted they had reused footage from the previous year, saving \$20,000. Highlights of upcoming events, included the Sportsman Show in Portland from February 12–16 and an event in Central Oregon from March 6–9, the upcoming visit of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association, which would bring 20–25 writers to The Dalles from May 2–4, and the Drain Raider Bass Tournament, which would take place in June, July, August, and September.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Matthew Klebes reported;

• The Police Department CAD / RMS project, in partnership with Wasco County and Mid-

Columbia Fire and Rescue was in procurement processes and would be included in the upcoming budget.

- 911 Calls for service had decreased from 21,890 in 2023 to 18,455 in 2024, due to police efforts and in part to improvements on Pentland Street. This impacted 911 payment distribution.
- He requested direction on when to begin discussion of a possible firework ban.
 - Council agreed to start discussions earlier to better align with when sales permits would be issued.
- Procurement documents for the tourism promotion services contract were near completion and would be posted soon. There would be a 30-day time for submissions. An ad hoc committee had been approved to review submissions.
- Appeared on the radio with Mark Bailey and on KODL.
- Final interviews for the Public Works Director were scheduled for Friday with three candidates.
- The Gloria Center opened emergency operations due to dropping temperatures.

CITY COUNCIL REPORTS

Councilor Runyon reported;

• Joined the Community Outreach Team (COT) and visited Salem with the Mayor and City Manager, helping to arrange meetings with seven Senators and Representatives.

Councilor McGlothlin reported;

- Covered the COT meeting at the college, discussions focused on outreach to Washington, D.C., and State legislature.
- An upcoming Airport Commission meeting.
- Received many inquiries about shelter for homeless which he referred to the Gloria Center and Annex for assistance.
- Acknowledged Kenny LaPoint's legacy in establishing the Gloria Center and Annex.
- Received inquiries about NORCOR policies concerning ICE, clarified that Wasco County manages NORCOR.
- Had been notified that four cameras were recently installed at Kelly Avenue Viewpoint to enhance security, particularly for children, and prevent potential misuse by youth.
- Praised the new playground at Sorosis Park as a safe space for children.

Councilor Wring reported;

- Attended the Federal Street Plaza meeting.
 - Reminded of the upcoming open house on Wednesday night at Freebridge Brewery.

- Proposed rekindling the coffee hour initiative that the Mayor started before COVID, where a counselor or two, along with the Mayor, would meet with the public on a Saturday to discuss concerns and share opinions.
 - Councilors agreed it was a good idea.

Councilor Randall reported;

• Attended the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council meeting on February 4, where topics such as potential grant funding sources and the proposed Resolution Center were discussed. The next meeting was scheduled for April 1 at the County Building on Third Street, starting at 11:30am.

Councilor Richardson reported;

- Attended the Federal Street Plaza meeting and would be present at the open house on Wednesday. Helped distribute posters downtown to encourage public comment.
- Noted that the warming shelter at MCCAC (Mid-Columbia Community Action Council) was open, providing a valuable service to the community. Encouraged outreach from the City Manager to support MCCAC during their leadership transition.

Mayor Mays reported;

- Gave a radio interview to Mark Bailey at KACI.
- Presented to the Chamber of Commerce's Community Affairs Committee.
- Sought volunteers for the Beautification and Tree Committee.
- Acknowledged Councilor Runyon's efforts during the Salem trip for City Day, which resulted in meeting with eight legislative Senators and Representatives instead of the scheduled three. Praised his efforts in making the event a great success.
- Invited the City Clerk to introduce an idea to engage youth and students with City government.

Amie Ell, City Clerk reported she had recently presented to students at The Dalles Middle School about local government and had shared information about the "If I Were Mayor" contest, organized annually by the Oregon Mayor's Association. This contest provided an opportunity for students to engage with local government, inspired them to be future leaders, and let them know their voices are heard. She was organizing a local contest for students in grades 4 through 12, with 3 categories based on grade level. Winners would receive recognition and prizes at the second City Council meeting in April and would be invited to a reception before the meeting to meet Councilors and the Mayor. A webpage with more information was on the City's website.

CONSENT AGENDA

It was moved by Wring and seconded by Richardson to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion carried 5 to 0, Wring, Richardson, McGlothlin, Randall, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

Items approved on the consent agenda were: 1) The minutes of the January 27, 2025 Regular City Council Meeting

ACTION ITEMS

<u>General Ordinance No. 25-1410 Amending Certain Provisions of TDMC Chapter 6.04 (Traffic Control)</u>

Jonathan Kara, City Attorney reviewed the staff report and invited Code Enforcement Officer Nikki Lesich to answer Council questions.

Randall asked for clarification regarding the towing of vehicles that had been moved onto private property. He questioned whether the intent was to have vehicles relocated to private property and why they would be towed if that was the case.

Lesich explained that the intent is to encourage vehicle owners to move their vehicles. She clarified that violations such as expired tags, flat tires, garbage, and broken windows remain even if the vehicles are moved to private property. Moving the vehicle does not resolve the violations.

Wring inquired about the legality of assigning a sworn officer to execute a duty versus having a code enforcement team handle it.

Kara explained that if a parking citation were issued by a non-officer, such as a code enforcement officer, the recipient could argue in municipal court that the citation was invalid because only an officer could issue it, referencing the city's code. He emphasized the need to update the ordinance, last amended in 1992, to equip the city's Code Enforcement Division with the necessary tools to perform its duties effectively.

Wring inquired whether the proposed changes would affect other sections of the municipal code, expanding the duties of the Code Enforcement team beyond traffic-related matters.

Kara clarified that the intent of the proposed changes was limited to amending Chapter 6.04, which pertains specifically to traffic control.

Wring asked for clarification on the reason behind changing the threshold for violations from five to two outstanding unpaid violations.

Lesich said the situation had become increasingly problematic, especially over the past year. Vehicles repeatedly parked in yellow zones and blocking visibility and access resulted in ongoing service disruptions, including blocked alleyways for deliveries and garbage collection. Many were repeat offenders not deterred by the \$25 ticket. This caused frustration in the surrounding community.

Kara further clarified that the reduction from five to two tickets only applied if a car was parked unlawfully.

Richardson asked if a car with flat tires on the street could be towed after being ticketed, and if it could still be towed if moved to a driveway.

Lesich said once it was on private property it would be treated as junk stored on private property and would then be addressed through an administrative letter.

It was moved by Randall and seconded by Richardson to adopt General Ordinance No. 25-1410, as presented with the additional amendments described by the city attorney, by title only. The motion carried 5 to 0, Randall, Richardson, McGlothlin, Wring, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

Lesich added that she and Chief Worthy had reviewed the stats from 2023 and 2024, noting a 58% increase in vehicle tagging. Of the tagged vehicles, 49 were towed, including 10 motorhomes, trailers, and other vehicles. She emphasized that despite the increase, the tagging process had a 90% compliance rate, proving to be quite effective in addressing the issue.

Engineer of Record for the Airport)

Jeff Renard Airport Manager reviewed the staff report.

Wring asked if it was common to only have one bidder.

Renard shared two firms had asked about the relationship with Precision Approach. He said he had praised the relationship, calling it fantastic, and both firms decided not to pursue further involvement, respecting the established partnership.

Wring said based on his 30 years of experience, in smaller areas like to this, such businesses were competitive but also respected established relationships.

Renard said one of the firms that had reached out also handled master planning. He explained the

next task would be to present the need for a master plan for the airport, and that the other engineering firm was looking forward to the opportunity. He hoped to have the RFP for this out in the next 90 days.

It was moved by Wring and seconded by Randall to authorize the City Manager to award the engineer selection Professional Services Agreement to Precision Approach Engineering. Subject to the Klickitat County BOCC approval. The motion carried 5 to 0, Wring, Randall, McGlothlin, Richardson, Runyon voting in favor; none opposed; none absent.

Assistant City Manager Position Proposal

Mathew Klebes City Manager reviewed the staff report.

Richardson said it would be fair to characterize this as an evolution of an existing position to something more fitting, rather than a brand-new position.

Klebes confirmed that it was correct, adding this represented an opportunity for a modest salary increase to better reflect the city's needs. He emphasized the continued focus on HR services and how this shift, along with the city's overall growth, would be beneficial

Wring asked the City Manager to clarify which nine Oregon communities were used for compensation comparisons.

Klebes said he had the information on his desk and recalled looking at assistant city managers in Hillsboro and Bend, though these were not the best comparisons due to their larger and more complex organizations. More comparable cities included Ashland, Albany, and Independence. Some cities, due to their size and complexity, did not have a similar position, so he focused on those that were most comparable, eliminating outliers like Beaverton and Bend.

Wring asked if there was a specific reason for changing the title to Assistant City Manager (ACM), aside from the reorganization of the structure and the roll-up of departments like IT.

Klebes explained that a key reason for the title change was the inclusion of managing departments like IT. He, as City Manager, would continue to directly support the police department, public works, CDD, and other departments. He noted the new position's role would include supporting and managing certain departments, with the structure evolving over time to ensure the greatest support and strengths were aligned with the City's needs.

Wring asked if this had been well received with department heads.

Klebes said there was a general understanding of his time constraints. He acknowledged the changes were new for The Dalles, and would require change management.

Wring asked if Klebes had any insights or thoughts on how the changes might impact recruitment for the HR Director position, noting that there were still vacancies in other management positions.

Klebes acknowledged several retirements, including the Economic Development Officer and Public Works Director. He said recruitment and retention were top priorities. He expressed cautious optimism that the changes would attract more attention and interested applicants due to the flexibility of the position.

Mayor Mays asked for elaboration on a recruitment process plan.

Klebes explained that the City uses a program called Applicant Pro to assist with recruitment, and for larger positions like the Public Works Director, they brought in a recruitment firm. He said the City would follow typical recruitment practices, posting positions on various job boards. He noted that reviewing and improving the recruitment and retention processes would be a priority for the new hire, including onboarding, offboarding, and setting employees up for success.

It was moved by Richardson and seconded by McGlothlin to adopt the February 10, 2025, Wage Table adding an Assistant City Manager/HR position and eliminating the Human Resource Director position, as presented. The motion carried 4 to 1, Richardson, McGlothlin, Randall, Runyon voting in favor; Wring opposed; none absent.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

In accordance with ORS 192.660(2)(d) to conduct deliberations with persons designated by the governing body to carry on labor negotiations.

Mayor Mays recessed Open Session at 7:07 p.m.

Mayor Mays reconvene Open Session at 7:38 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Submitted by/

Amie Ell, City Clerk

SIGNED:

0 8

Richard A. Mays, Mayor

ATTEST:

Amie Ell, City Clerk



TOP 10 THINGS ABOUT GORGE TRANSIT

CASCADE LOCKS

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WHITE SALMON

THE DALLES



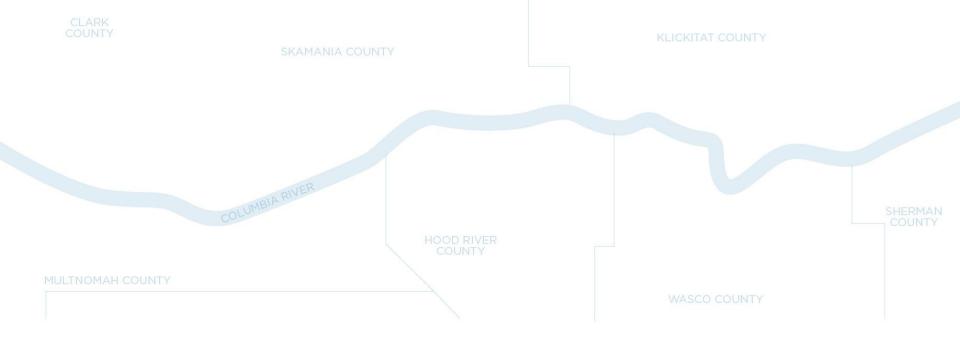
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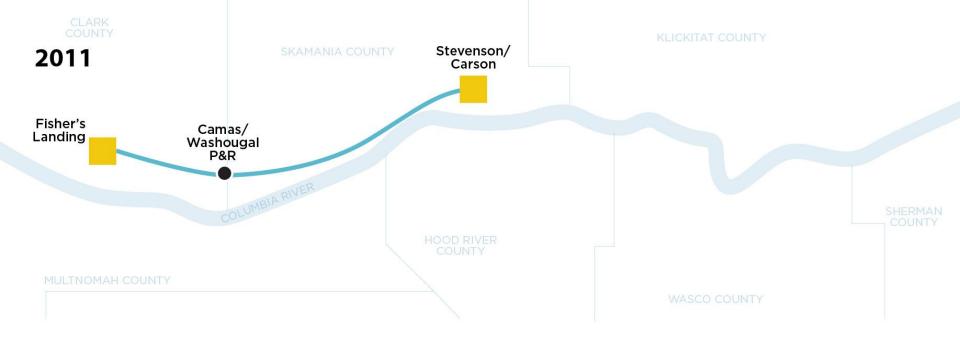
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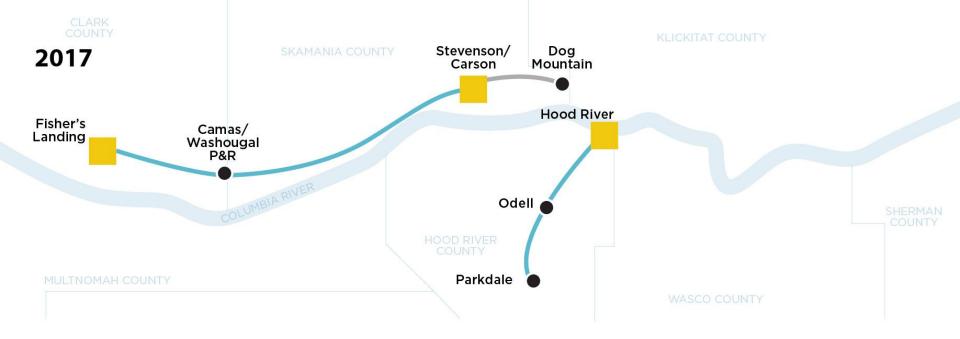
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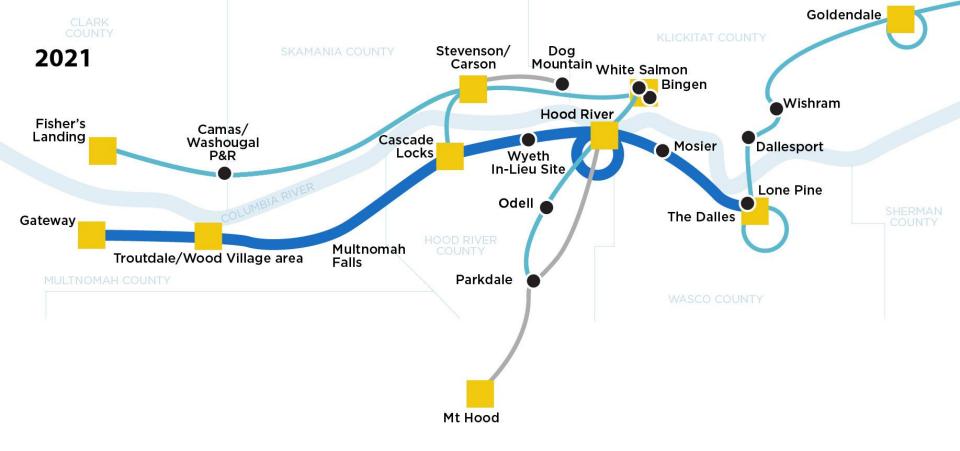
WHITE SALMON

THE DALLES











YOUR GATEWAY TO GETTING AROUND THE GORGE!

Schedules & Routes

Alerts

Gorge Transit Schedule Changes April 27 and 29 Effective: April 27, 2024

3/13 Columbia Gorge Express Update - Regular Gateway Transit Center Stop Returns!

Affected Routes: hood_river



SMS Transit Alerts

Receive text notifications whenever we post a transit alert! Alerts will include service interruptions due to weather or other unpredictable events. Sign up here:

SMS Alerts

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ASCADE LOCKS

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WHITE SALMON

GOrge Pass

Your transit ticket to the Gorge

HOOD



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Activate Pass

Gorge Pass Gorge Gorge Gorge Pass

If activated now pass will expire at 12:00 AM Jensiary 1, 202



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MULTNOMAH FALLS: NO RESERVATIONS OR PERMITS NEEDED WHEN YOU ARRIVE BY BUS



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EXPLORE CONNECT | PROTECT



Your ticket to unlimited rides to and from Portland/Vancouver and around the Gorge.

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gorgepass.com

GOOD FOR YOU

- · Take it to the airport
- · Avoid parking hassles
- · Use it to commute
- · Hike without permits
- . Throw your bike on the front
- · Stress less, enjoy the views

GOOD FOR THE GORGE

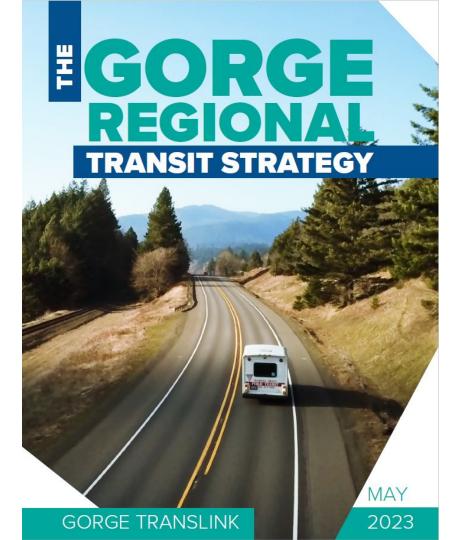
- · Reduces congestion
- · Gives equitable access to the outdoors
- · Connects affordable housing, healthcare, & jobs
- · Fewer visitors in cars
- · Preserves the beauty of the regionn

Help build a stronger future systemthe more passes purchased, the more routes and times can be added.

\$1 of every pass goes to the Gorge Equity Fund to support outdoor access and low-income passes.















Gorge Transit provided over 2000,0000 rides in the past year









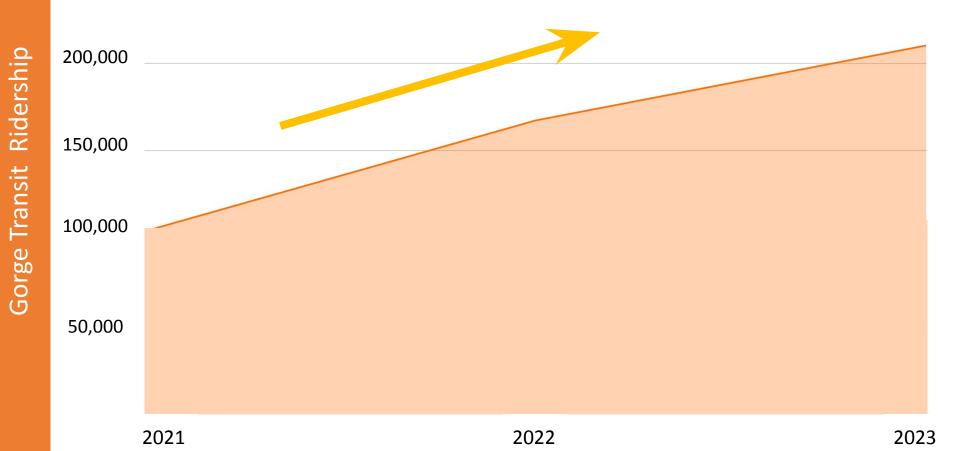


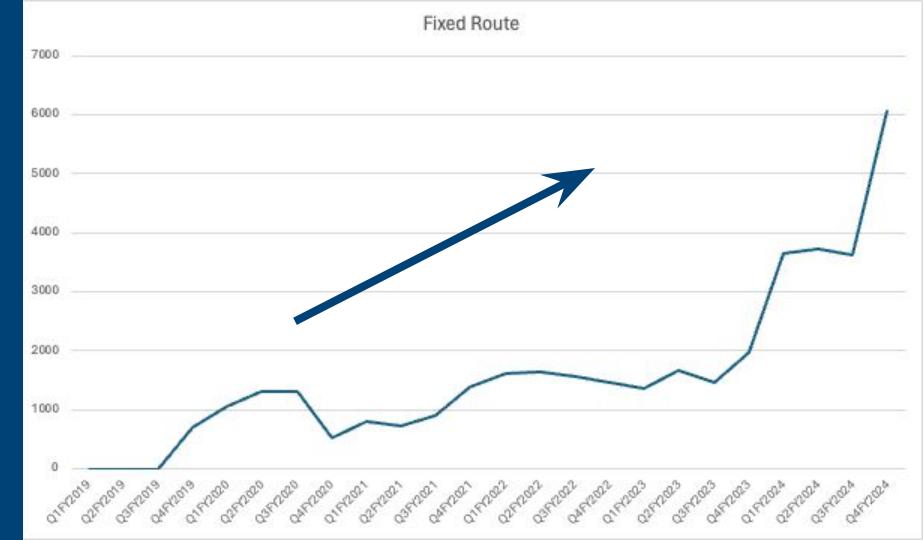






250,000





The Link Ridership

WASHINGTON



Goldendale 🔍

TOP 10 THINGS ABOUT GORGE TRANSIT





3. EQUITY FUND ADE LOCKS

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GORGE EQUITY FUND Passes for Low Income Programs

> EMPLOYER SALES: BUY ONE, GIVE ONE For every pass purchased, one will be given to the Equity Fund

TOP 10 THINGS ABOUT GORGE TRANSIT

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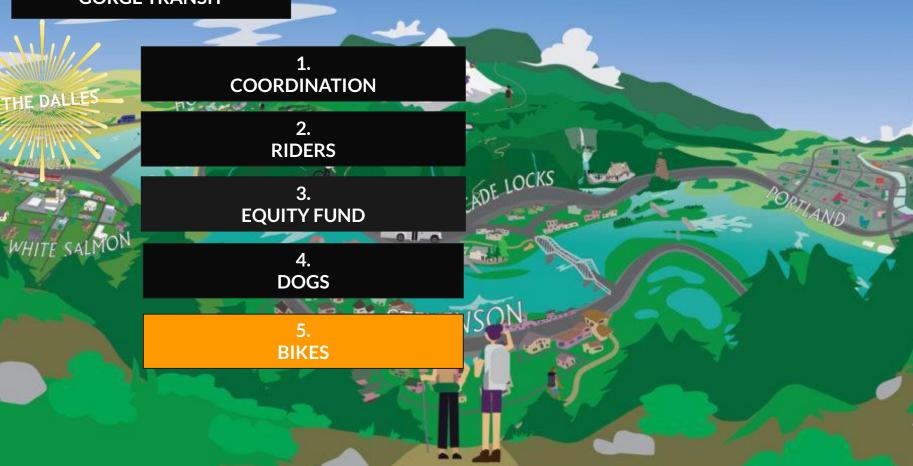


DE LOCKS

4. DOGS



TOP 10 THINGS ABOUT GORGE TRANSIT



14. The Dalles to Rowena Crest

[18 Miles / +600 ft]

This section of the Historic Columbia River Highway between Mosler and The Dalles is shared with light to heavy traffic and tackles the iconic Rowena Loops.

From The Dalles Link station, turn right on Chenowith Loop Rd then left on Hwy 30 which you will follow for 9 miles to Rowena Crest.

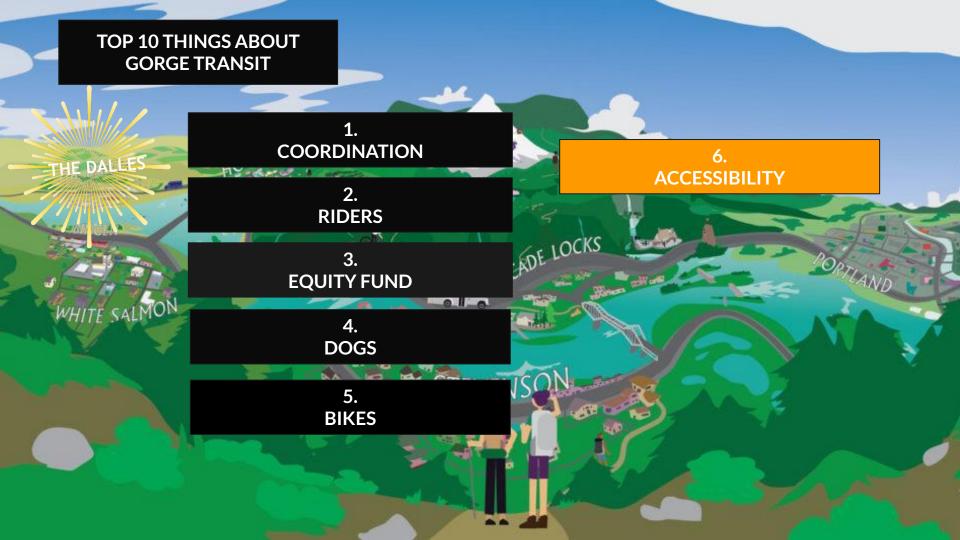
Return back for a complete loop or continue on to Mosler for another 6 miles. There you can catch one of the weekday buses to Hood River or keep riding another 8 miles along the Twin Tunnels trail to Hood River via bike.





Bicycling contributes \$133 Billion annually to the US economy

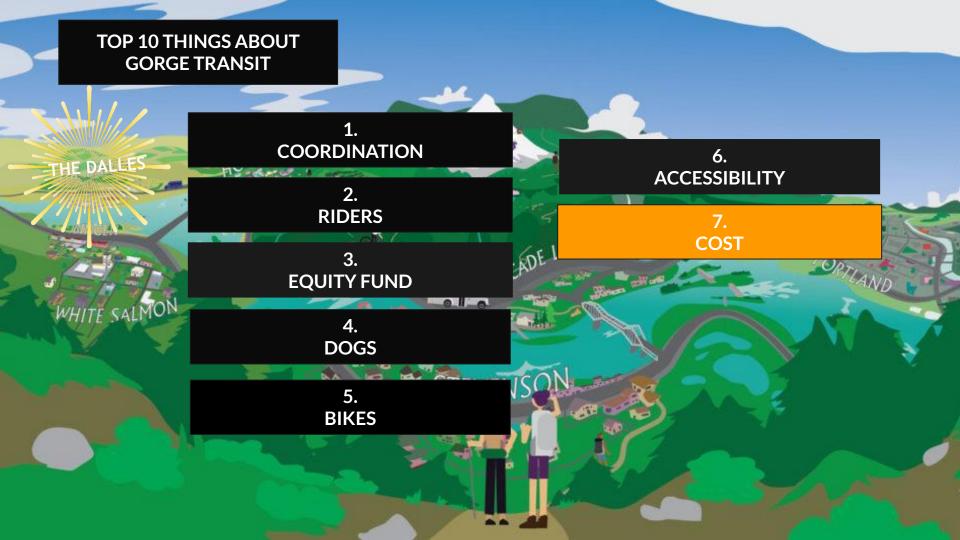


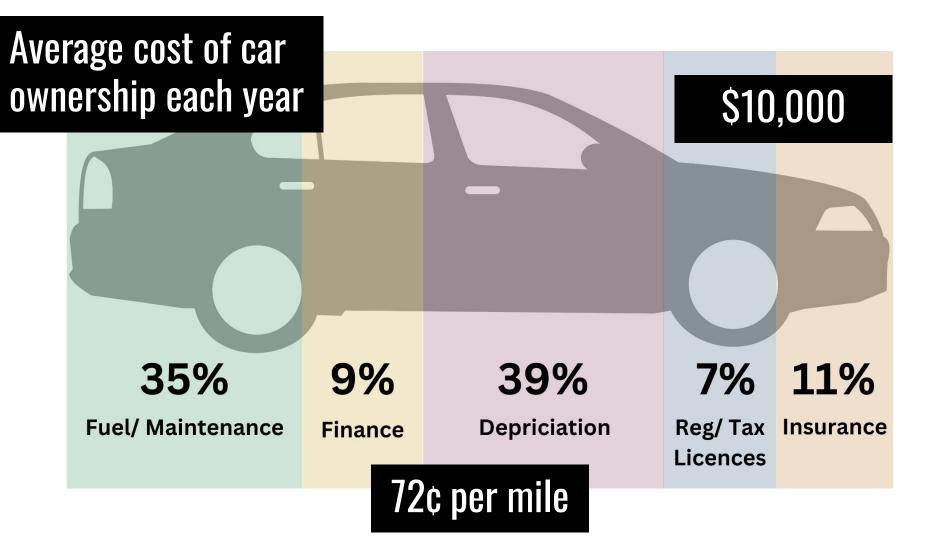












The Dalles to Hood River

By Car: \$31 Round Trip

By Bus: \$1 Each Way



The Dalles to Goldendale

By Car: \$52 Round Trip

By Bus: \$1 Each Way



The Dalles to VA Hospital in Portland

By Car: \$120 Round Trip

By Bus: \$40 Per Year

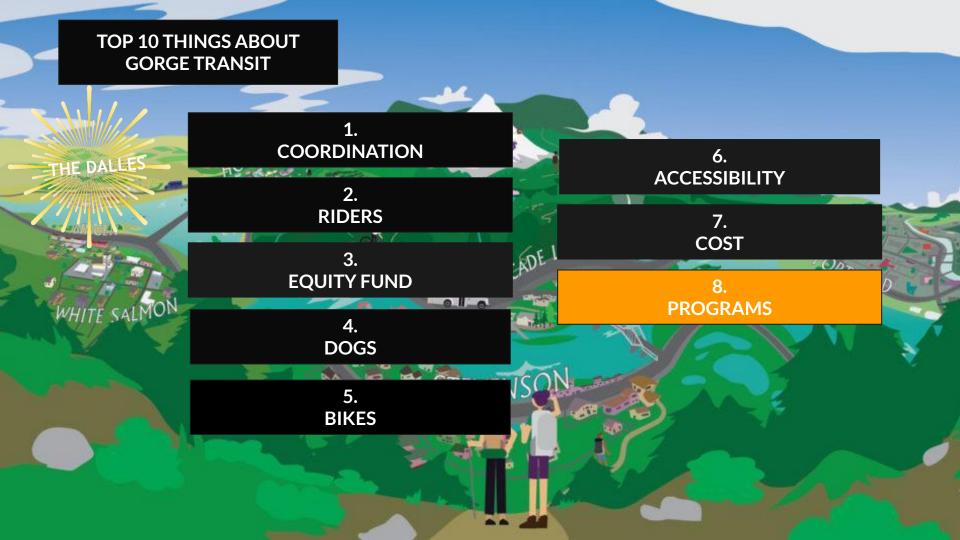


Commuting to Hood River 5x per Week

> <u>By Car:</u> **\$8,060** Per Year

By Bus: \$40 Per Year











High School Students Ride for FREE!

All High School students in The Dalles can ride for free, whether it is for school or entertainment.

Meet our drivers at our fixed route locations or call and schedule a ride. Scan the QR Code for our

You must present your current Student ID. PHONE: 541-3296-7595 www.mcedd.org/link/





Free Gorge Transit Passes for The Dalles Downtown Workers

Anyone working or living in the downtown zone may receive a free annual Gorge Transit Pass. Take The Link Bus and skip the parking hassles! This pass will also work on all other Gorge routes including to and from Portland.

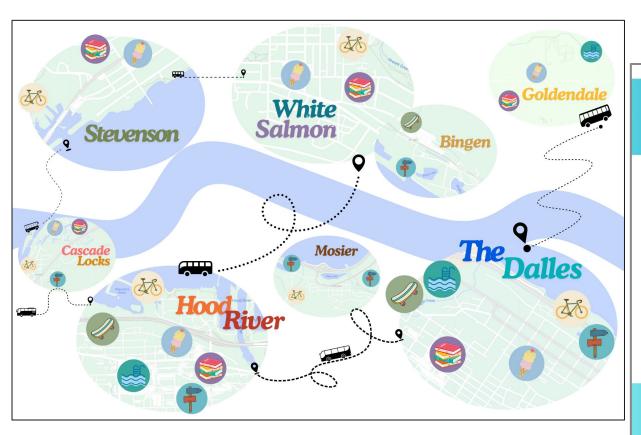


- Register at: gorgetransit.com/tddowntown
- Check out schedules while you are there to plan your route to work
 Spend less time and money driving and

more time enjoying the view

MCEDD

www.gorgetransit.com



THE DALLES YOUTH RIDERS EARN REWARDS

HOW TO PLAY

- Stop by The Link transit office or The Dalles Library to pick up a prize stamp card
- Ride The Link bus during August and get a stamp from the driver
- · Present stamp card at participating location to reedem prize



Angel's Bakery 216 Court St. The Dalles Any bakery item



Brick City & Games 318 E 2nd St. The Dalles Create your own tiny Lego figure or tiny person



North Wasco **Aquatic Center** 602 W 2nd St, The Dalles General admission swim



Shannon's Ice Cream 318 E 4th St, The Dalles Your choice of regular ice cream cone

Travel Training Available!

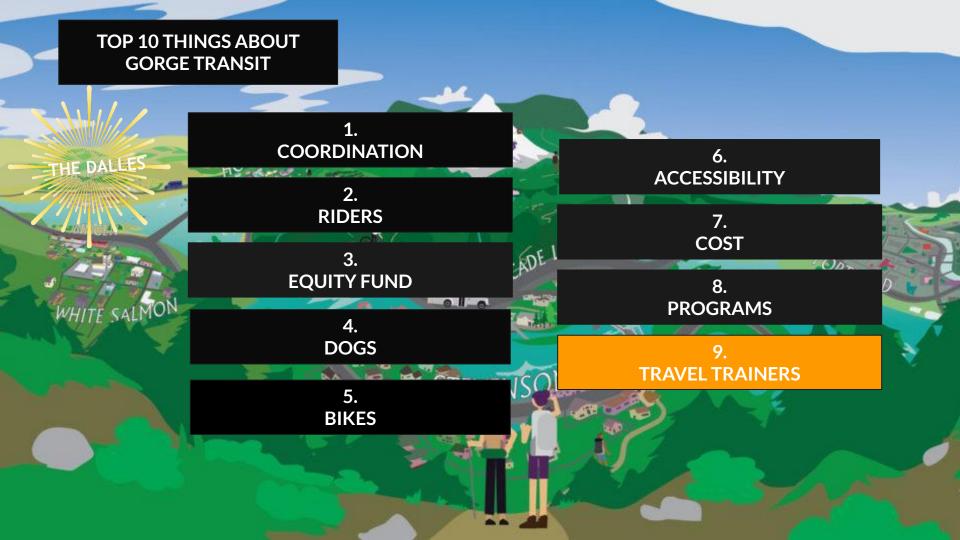
• How to Read a Schedule • How to Transfer • 1 on 1 Ride Alongs Mobility Device Orientation and more...

*The Dalles Youth Riders (17 & under) who ride The Link bus this summer will earn a reward for the first 4 trips *Rewards can be claimed @ each stop after driver stamp *1 reward per day. Available while supplies last *Rewards are limited to 1 per youth rider









Help to Get Where You Want to Go



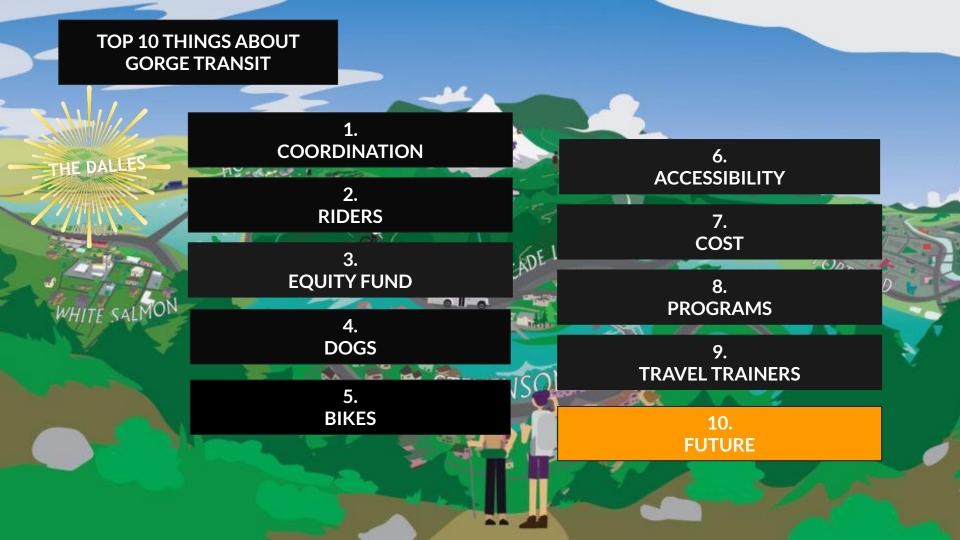
Eve Elderwell is the Travel Trainer for Klickitat and Skamania Counties.

Phone: (808) 769-8061 Email: eve@gorgepass.com

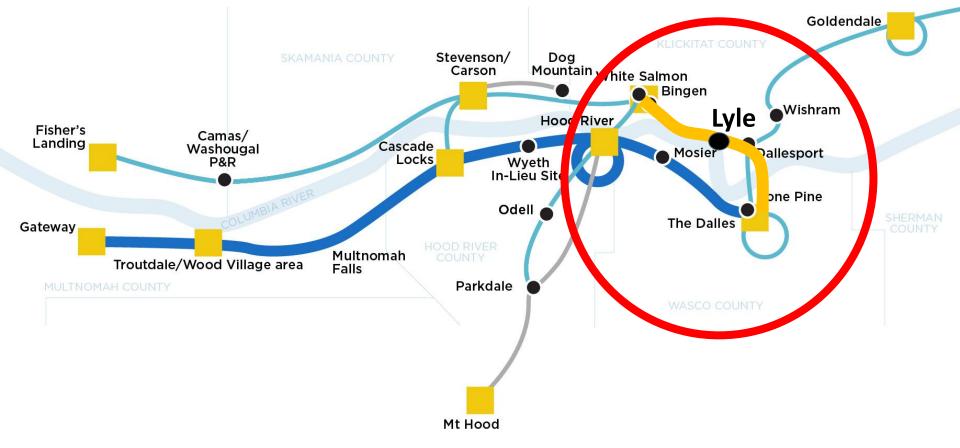
Sara Crook is the Travel Trainer for Hood River and Wasco Counties.

Phone: (541) 400-0419 Email: sara@mcedd.org

Call or Email to Connect with a Travel Trainer!



Grant proposal for 2025-27: White Salmon-Bingen-Lyle-The Dalles





FUTURE OF GORGE TRANSIT • HANDS -**ON WORKSHOPS** • **PANEL: HOW** TRANSIT SOLVES **CURRENT ISSUES** • **RIDERS GAME SHOW** • BUS STOP **CONTEST • KEYNOTE JARRETT WALKER** • **TOURS, CONTESTS &** MORE

GO RG **APRIL 10TH HOOD RIVER**

