

A Story Map

OREGON SCENIC BYWAYS

GPL PRESENTATION

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Photo Credits: Rowena Loops, Alan Majchrowicz

WELCOME TO OREGON'S SCENIC BYWAYS

29 ROUTES



ROUTE TYPES

All American Roads

National Scenic
Byways

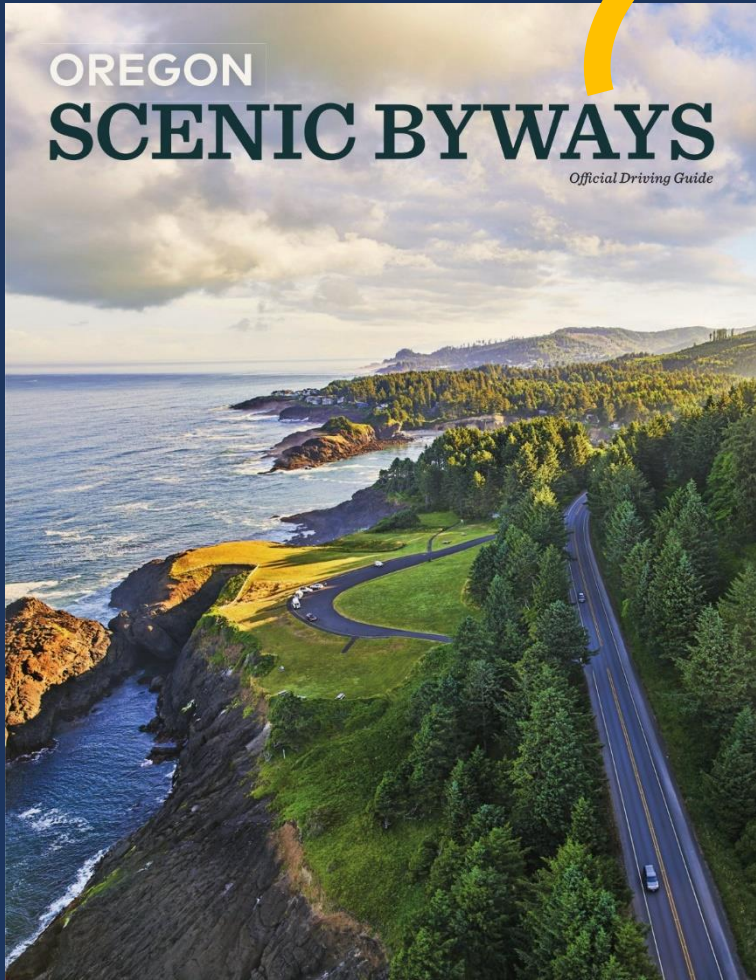
Oregon State Scenic
Byways

Oregon Tour Routes

The Driving Guide Take a look inside!

OREGON SCENIC BYWAYS

Official Driving Guide



ALL-AMERICAN ROAD

HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY SCENIC BYWAY

About 14,000 years ago, cataclysmic floods scoured out the Columbia River Gorge. Early visionaries engineered an inspired drive along its towering walls. As America's first scenic highway and a National Historic Landmark, this 70-mile/113-kilometer route is indeed the "King of Roads."

One of North America's grandest rivers, the Columbia is at its finest as it rolls through the Columbia River Gorge, framed by sheer walls of basalt, cloaked in firs and ferns and rare endemic plants, accented with waterfall after crashing waterfall.

The nation's second National Scenic Area, the Columbia River Gorge is also the largest and most densely populated, offering the amenities of urban centers close to the wild beauty of the outdoors. And that beauty is matched only by the stories that can be told here: of tribal

people fishing, trading and thriving along its banks; of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery epochal 1805-06 journey; of pioneers launching their worldly possessions down its rapids; of Samuel Hill championing the nation's first scenic highway and enticing generations of visitors to this heady, handsome place.

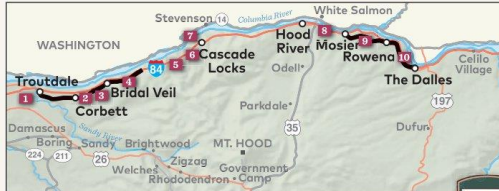
TROUTDALE TO CROWN POINT

The Sandy River marks the western boundary of the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area, where the Portland

metro area ends and the byway begins. From **1 Troutdale** (exit 17 on Interstate 84), the road follows the Sandy upstream, then winds uphill through **Corbett** to your first cliff-top panorama of the Gorge at the **2 Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint**.

The majestic Columbia you see here begins as a trickle of snowmelt in the Canadian Rockies. It absorbs a tremendous web of river systems on its 1,200-mile/1,931-kilometer run to the Pacific, swelling into the nation's fourth-largest river. This spot 725 feet/221 meters above the river also provides a good look at the grand basalt cliffs of the Gorge, formed by Ice Age floods scouring through ancient lava flows between 18,000 and 13,000 years ago.

The vista inspired railroad lawyer Samuel Hill and engineer extraordinaire Samuel Lancaster to "conquer" the wild beauty of the Gorge with a grand scenic drive. It was an implausible plan — a road that would cling to sheer cliffs, traverse rushing rivers and tunnel through hammer-hard basalt — but they made it happen. The first segment was dedicated in 1916, an engineering marvel and a craftsmen's showcase of hand-cut stone and elegant masonry. The first destination built along the new road, the 1918 **3 Vista House** has displays about the highway construction and unmatched Gorge views from the rotunda atop **Crown Point**, 1 mile/1.6 kilometers past the first scenic overlook.



HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY SCENIC BYWAY

70 miles/113 kilometers (allow 3 to 5 hours)

Weather: Travel during spring for best waterfalls, fall for good weather, mid-week for fewer crowds. Wintertime roads can be hazardous. **Medical:** Medical services/hospitals located in Portland, Hood River and The Dalles. See p. 80.

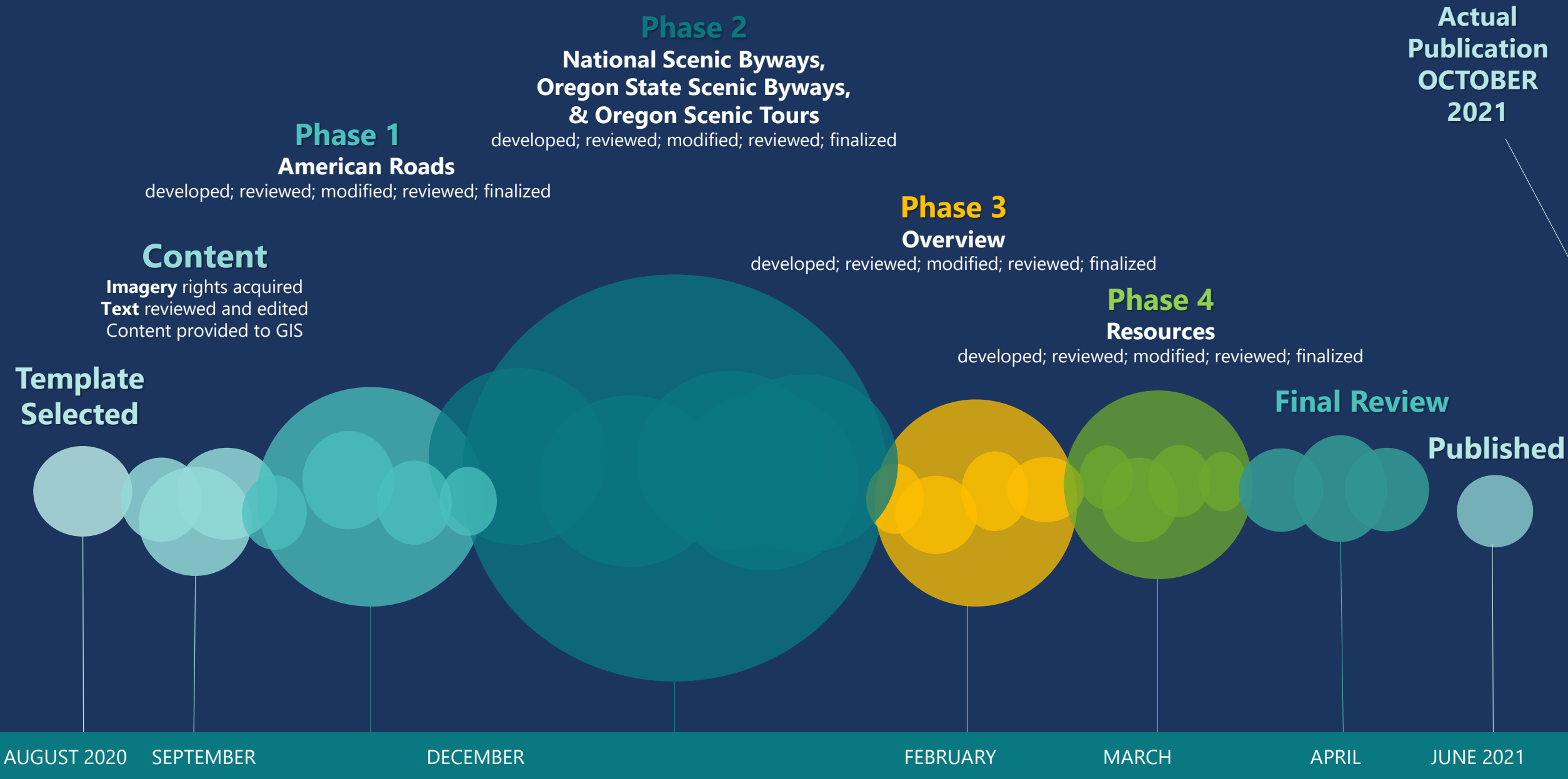
Highlights

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Troutdale | 6 Bonneville Lock and Dam |
| 2 Portland Women's Forum State Scenic Viewpoint | 7 Bridge of the Gods |
| 3 Vista House at Crown Point | 8 Twin Tunnels Trail |
| 4 Multnomah Falls | 9 Rowena Crest |
| 5 Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail | 10 Columbia Gorge Discovery Center |



DENNIS FRATES

PROPOSED PROJECT TIMELINE





Welcome to Oregon

You can see a lot of Oregon from behind the wheel of a car. So go ahead — sit back, relax, and enjoy the drive. After all, the journey is more than half the fun.



oregonbywaystorymap.org

Many Thanks

SANDRA HIKARI

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