

Preserving Access to Multnomah Falls

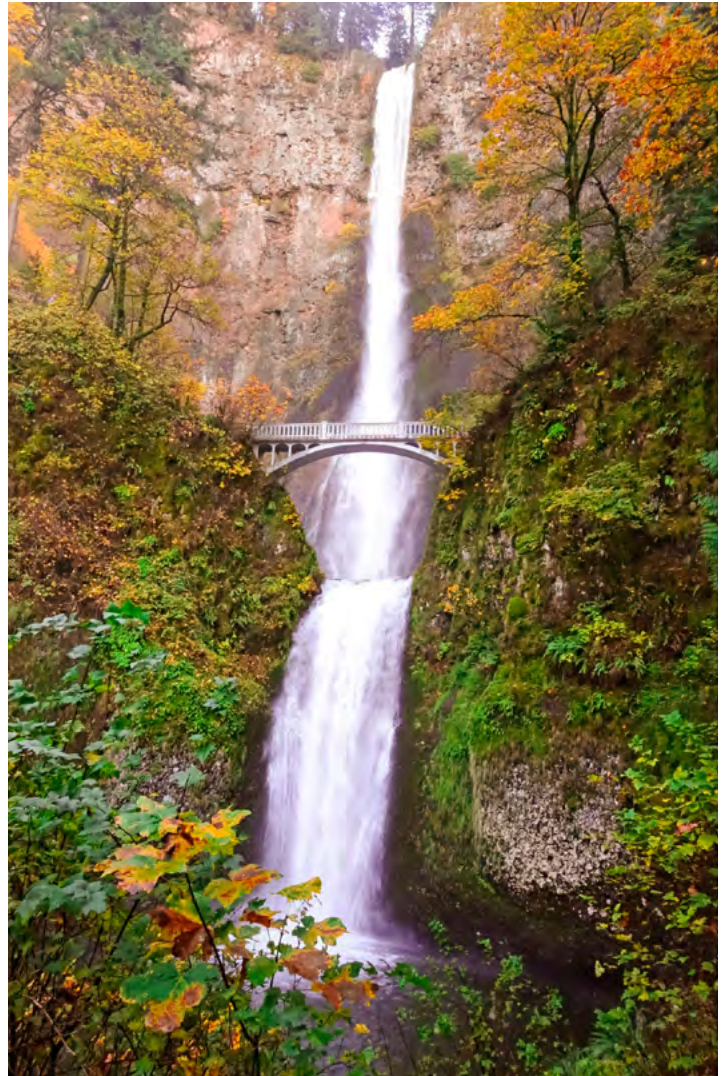
FALL 2023

Historic Columbia River Highway viaducts to be restored and repaired 2024 to 2026

Considered one of the greatest engineering feats of the modern age, the Historic Columbia River Highway was the first planned scenic highway in the United States.

With the railroad on one side and a steep rock wall on the other, designers needed to be creative when constructing the historic highway near Multnomah Falls. Rather than building a retaining wall, where there is no room to do so, columns were used to build two elevated roadways – the east and west Multnomah Falls viaducts.

Starting in fall 2024, we are restoring the over 100-year old viaducts. The east and west viaducts will be closed, one at a time, while work is underway.



Looking up at Multnomah Falls and Benson Bridge.

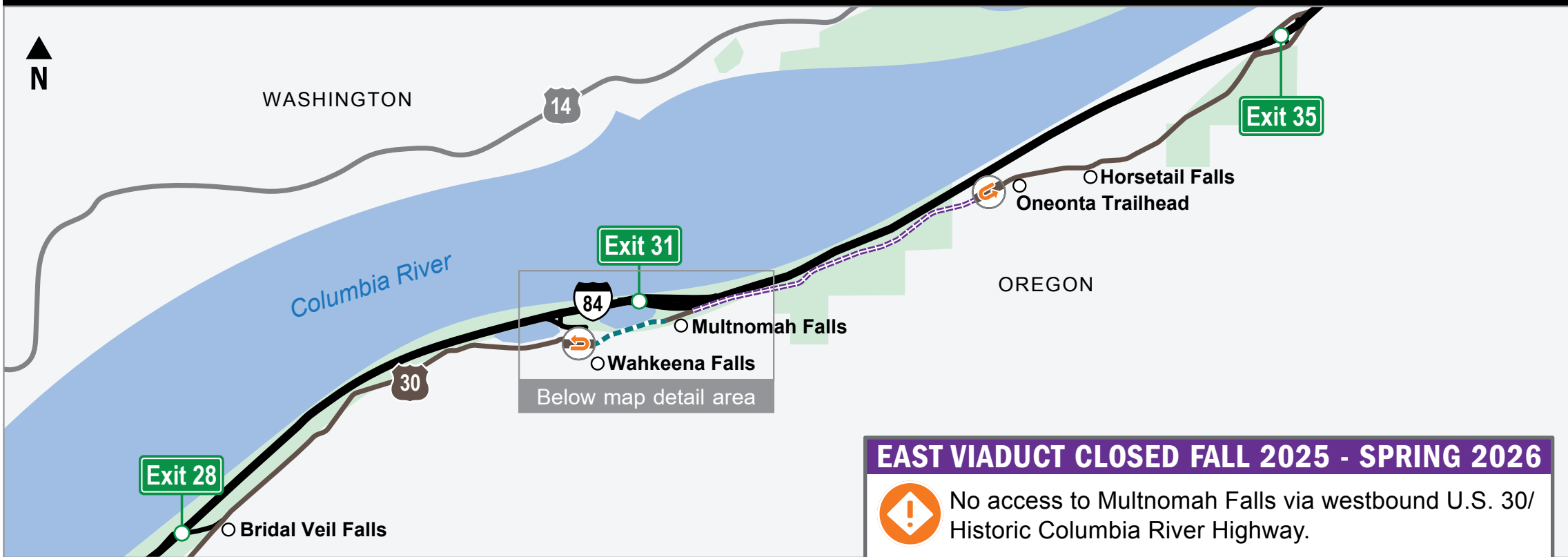


Current photo of the west viaduct near rail line.



*Historical image of the west viaduct next to rail line.
Photo courtesy of the David Sell Collection*

Attention Gorge Visitors

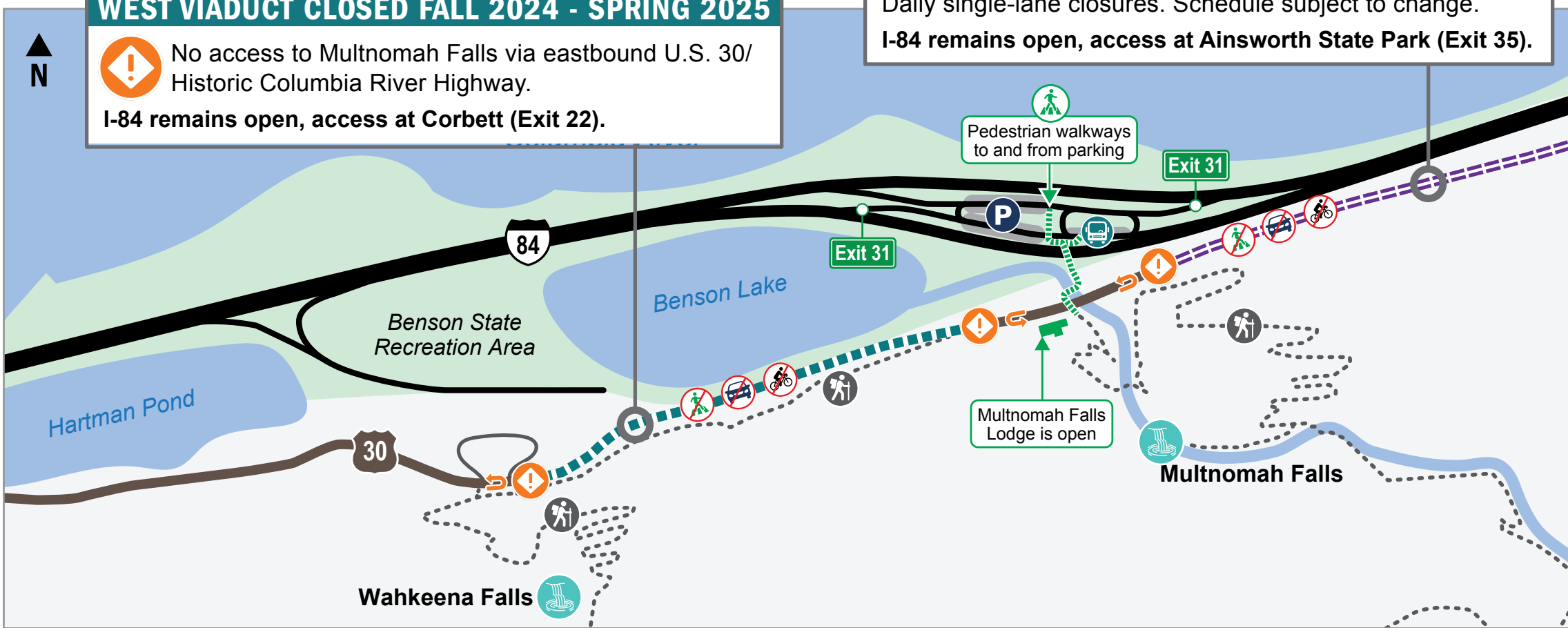


WEST VIADUCT CLOSED FALL 2024 - SPRING 2025

No access to Multnomah Falls via eastbound U.S. 30/ Historic Columbia River Highway.
I-84 remains open, access at Corbett (Exit 22).

EAST VIADUCT CLOSED FALL 2025 - SPRING 2026

No access to Multnomah Falls via westbound U.S. 30/ Historic Columbia River Highway.
Intermittently from spring 2025 through fall 2026
 Daily single-lane closures. Schedule subject to change.
I-84 remains open, access at Ainsworth State Park (Exit 35).



MAP KEY

- U-turn at U.S. 30/Historic Columbia River Highway closure.
- Hiking trails open.
- Multnomah Falls parking at I-84 Exit 31.
- Columbia Gorge Express bus stop.

U.S. 30/HISTORIC COLUMBIA RIVER HIGHWAY'S RICH HISTORY

The Historic Columbia River Highway design dates back to 1914 with its dedication in 1916.



Highway dedication in 1916



West Viaduct coming into Multnomah Falls



West Viaduct under construction

Columbia River Gorge Construction

I-84 & U.S. 30 (Historic Columbia River Highway)

Preserving Access to Multnomah Falls

Preserving History

The two viaducts on either side of Multnomah Falls are over 100 years old and require repair and maintenance.

Starting in fall 2024, we are restoring the historic structures so they need minimal maintenance over the next 50 years and can continue carrying traffic along the highway. Repairs include:

- Removing asphalt and installing new concrete surface to match the original 1914 design in color and texture.
- Repairing railings, vertical columns, and horizontal support beams to improve stabilization and address erosion.
- Replacing permanent signs to meet current standards.

Anticipated construction schedule

This work will close one viaduct at a time over two winters starting in fall 2024. From spring through fall, the two-lane highway will be reduced to one lane with flaggers directing traffic on the Historic Columbia River Highway at night. Schedule subject to change.

- **West viaduct closure:** Fall 2024 through spring 2025
- **East viaduct closure:** Fall 2025 through spring 2026
- **Nighttime single-lane closures:** Intermittently 2024 through 2026



Historical image of the west viaduct next to rail line.
Photo courtesy of the David Sell Collection

Plan ahead and try something new



Consider taking transit when traveling to the Gorge! The Gorge has multiple public and private bus options, including to destinations like Multnomah Falls. Visit RideCatBus.org or ReadySetGorge.com to find more information about routes, schedules and tickets.



If you are driving to Multnomah Falls, there is parking available off I-84 at Exit 31. You can find real-time traffic impacts and parking availability at the Exit 31 lot at TripCheck.com.

QUESTIONS?

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For more information about projects occurring in the Columbia River Gorge visit the project website at i84GorgeConstruction.org

