



Office of Federal
Lands Highway

U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

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Federal Lands Highway provides planning, design, and engineering services to support the highways and bridges that provide access to and within federally owned lands.



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See <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/flh/>
for sources

Federal Lands Highway Program (FLHP)

Improving transportation to and within federal and tribal lands



Federal Lands Highway Public Partners

Who are Federal Lands Highway's Public Partners? Providing a seamless transportation network between state, tribal and Federal transportation systems requires coordination between multiple agencies and different levels of government. Since its establishment in 1983, the Office of Federal Lands Highway (FLH) has partnered closely with Federal Land Management Agencies, including the Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Fish and Wildlife Service to support transportation planning and infrastructure on Federal lands.

In addition, FLH works with the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army and Navy, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and dozens of states, tribes and private partners on transportation projects throughout U.S. states and territories.

Why are public-public and public-private partnerships important? As traditional public financing mechanisms fail to keep pace with the growing needs and rising costs of the national transportation system, transportation agencies are looking to innovative partnership

strategies to meet investment needs. Partnerships with public and private entities have gained importance as a strategy for FLH in balancing the interests of various stakeholders and accessing additional financial and operational capacity to implement transportation projects accessing Federal lands.



Federal Lands Highway Partnerships

FLH and its partner agencies have used partnerships to encourage public participation, finance new projects, improve the cost-effectiveness and timeliness of project delivery, and mitigate the environmental impact of transportation activities on Federal lands.

Island Explorer Transit System, Acadia National Park

Partners: National Park Service, Maine DOT, Friends of Acadia, L.L. Bean, Federal Transit Administration, Eastern Federal Lands Highway Division, four gateway communities

Description: Acadia National Park in Maine provides a model of successful project implementation with private, local, State, and Federal funding partners. Launched in 1999, the Island Explorer transit system includes 17 clean fuel, propane buses that offer free service on seven routes connecting the park attractions. The Island Explorer improves the park, the environmental quality of the region, the safety and comfort of both residents and visitors, and the state tourist economy.

In addition to Federal, State and local funding, Friends of Acadia provided approximately \$420,000 in funding, and secured a \$1 million gift from L.L. Bean in 2002 to enable the system to continue operating through the fall. To sustain the system, the park entrance fee increased in 2004, with \$10 from every entrance pass supporting the Island Explorer.

Whalen Island, Oregon

Partners: Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFLHD), the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, NPS, and the Trust for Public Lands

Description: By partnering with states and nonprofit conservation organizations through wetland mitigation banks, FLH can access important expertise and assets to offset the impact of transportation infrastructure development on wetlands. Mitigation banks are wetlands, streams, or other aquatic resource areas restored, established, enhanced, or preserved for the purpose of providing compensation for unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources. Using mitigation banks improves the quality of the resources conserved while reducing delays to the construction process.

WFLHD contributed \$500,000 to help purchase the 179-acre (72.4-hectare) Whalen Island and save it from development. The preservation of Whalen Island and the Sand Lake Estuary keeps intact an undeveloped estuary along the state's coast. The WFLHD contribution prevented it from being purchased by a developer and expedited a project to improve Oregon Forest Highway 164 by helping to offset the unavoidable filling of 5 acres of wetlands.



Island Explorer Transit System



Whalen Island, Oregon