

Mirror Lake Trailhead Relocation Project | *Fact Sheet*

parking facility and trailhead based on agreed-upon set of project objectives (see sidebar on page 1). The most promising area to relocate the trailhead and new parking lot is directly west of the Skibowl resort on the south side of Highway 26. A new trail connection will connect a new parking area and trailhead to the existing Mirror Lake trail. When the site and design configuration of the new parking lot is finalized, a new trail connection of .75 to 1.25 miles will connect the lot to the existing trail. The new roundtrip length of Mirror Lake Trail will be about 4.5 miles. The connection will retain the trail's current level of difficulty. The new 50 car parking area, while adjacent to the existing Ski Bowl parking lot, will be a separated lot for trail users and include restrooms, benches and an information board. The new trail connector will offer new opportunities for trail users and a part of it will be accessible to wheelchairs.

The current plan also includes highway improvements at the intersection of the current Ski Bowl entrance and Glacier View Rd. to make travel safer for all highway users. Construction impacts from these improvements will be shared with motorists and the surrounding community closer to implementation.

The Mirror Lake Trailhead Relocation Project will increase the safety of trail users and the traveling public throughout the Highway 26 Corridor.

Budget: \$4,180,000

Schedule:	2016	2017	2018
Environmental			
Design Phase			
Construction			



Visit the project website for information and to sign up for notifications.

www.flh.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or/mirror-lake

Contact Information:

Project Information

Seth English-Young
seth.english-young@dot.gov
(360) 619-7803

U.S. Forest Service Information

Laura Pramuk
lbpramuk@fs.fed.us
(503) 668-1791



for the greatest good



Mirror Lake Trailhead Relocation Project

Fact Sheet

The Mirror Lake Trail is one of the most popular hiking trails on Mt. Hood. This moderately easy hike and its spectacular views of Mt. Hood attract thousands of visitors year-round.

The trailhead to Mirror Lake Trail is located next to the eastbound lanes of U.S. 26—a busy highway linking the Portland Metro area with central Oregon and recreational destinations on Mt. Hood. Mirror Lake Trail users park along the highway to access the trailhead. During the summer months, the limited parking at the trailhead quickly fills. Visitors then park wherever they can, including the opposite side of this busy highway, where they must cross several lanes of traffic to reach the trailhead. Additionally, the trailhead is located at a curve reducing the ability to see oncoming traffic. Parked cars sometimes encroach in lanes of traffic and drivers exiting parking areas often must back into traffic lanes.

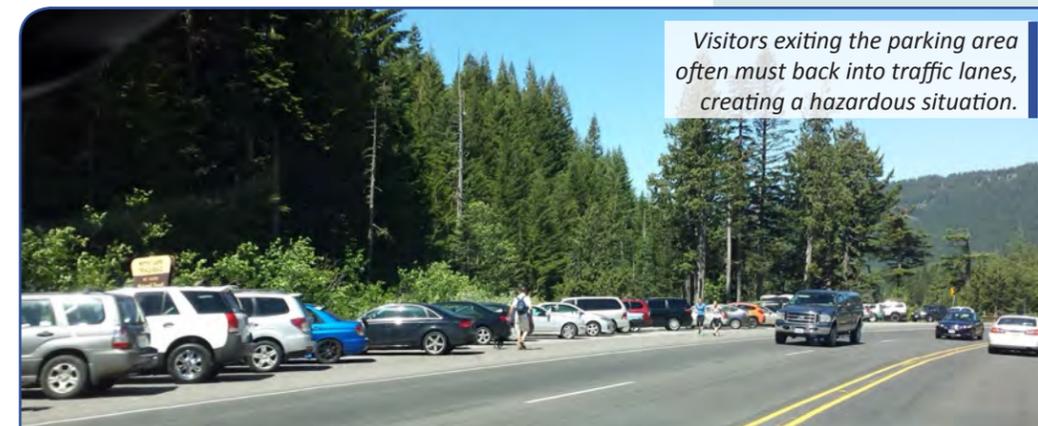
These factors create safety hazards for both visitors to the trail, and the through traffic on Highway 26.

A partnership of agencies including Federal Highways (FHWA), the US Forest Service (USFS) and Oregon Dept. of Transportation (ODOT) launched the Mirror Lake Trailhead Relocation Project to address these issues. The Project Partners have analyzed potential locations for a new *(cont'd on page 4)*



The Objectives of the Project are:

- » Provide safe access to, and maintain the trail experience of the Mirror Lake Trail
- » Minimize/eliminate hazardous conditions along U.S. 26 related to accessing the Mirror Lake Trail
- » Maintain existing parking capacity of visitors to the Mirror Lake Trail
- » Discourage parking on U.S. 26
- » Support the land management strategies of USFS
- » Allow for the Mirror Lake Trail to be available for winter snowshoeing



Visitors exiting the parking area often must back into traffic lanes, creating a hazardous situation.

- » Minimize impacts to environmental resources
- » Minimize the additional length of trail to Mirror Lake and maintain the current level of difficulty

Mirror Lake Trailhead Relocation Project | Fact Sheet

Site Plan

