

PORT OF CASCADE LOCKS MARINE PARK ENTRANCE

Thanks to the support of Senators Wyden and Smith and Representative Walden, the 2005 surface transportation reauthorization bill (SAFETEA-LU) included \$800,000 in funding for preliminary design and engineering on a new entrance into Marine Park from WaNaPa Street.

Initial plans had focused on replacing the current substandard 80 year old underpass with a new underpass that would be wider and deeper. This would eliminate current height clearance issues that significantly limit service and recreational vehicle access into the Park. The low clearance has put significant limitations on the use of the marina, boat launch, RV campground and other amenities within the Park. The underpass is also too narrow to safely accommodate lanes for pedestrian or bicycle traffic.

Following initial engineering and site analysis, it has now been determined that a more cost effective and beneficial entrance into the Park would result from a new overpass as opposed to an underpass from WaNaPa into Marine Park. The new entrance will span the Union Pacific Rail Road (UPRR) tracks, providing a new link between the Westside of Marine Park with Cascade Locks' downtown.

Construction of a new overpass for the Marine Park entrance will provide safe ADA compliant pedestrian and bicycle access, eliminate current height restrictions adversely affecting park access, and allow large vehicles such as trucks and RVs to enter the park. Most importantly it will allow tour bus access to the Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler and Visitor Center.

The Port has worked closely with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) on engineering and permitting of the new entrance. The funds made available through SAFETEA-LU have been spent for the preliminary design with over \$500,000 remaining for the final design. The Port partnered with *Parametrix* to design an overpass that has the lowest environmental impact and the best option for permitting. The Union Pacific Rail Road has conditionally approved our proposed Concept Design over-crossing into Marine Park. UPRR's conditional approval has allowed the process to proceed to use the continuation of right-of-way acquisition, final design, and categorical review.

