

HATFIELD RESIDENT FELLOWSHIP PROJECT BRIEF

Project Management Support for FHWA WFL Planning Team

Project Dates: July 2023 – March 2024

PROJECT GOAL

The overall goal of the project was for the Hatfield Resident Fellow (HRF) to provide project management support, planning analysis, and document design and development to the transportation planning team at the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Western Federal Lands (WFL) office based in Vancouver, WA.

CHALLENGES

WFL is responsible for transportation planning across multiple US states, including Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and parts of Wyoming. Projects can range in scale from a small dirt trail accessing federal land in a residential neighborhood, to a large, multi-highway transportation corridor accessing cities, campgrounds, national parks, and other existing infrastructure. To manage these projects, planners must contend with federal, state, and local laws, as well as retain the capacity to coordinate with other agencies, local governments, and the public to achieve optimal project outcomes for diverse stakeholders.

WFL hired a HRF to support the capacity for WFL to take on a large number of projects across funding programs, most of which feature overlapping deadlines and require extensive stakeholder management. The HRF faced challenges that include the following:

- Navigating the complexities of overlapping federal, state, and local transportation regulations
- Becoming familiar with the wide range of transportation funding programs and their respective stipulations
- Understanding and adhering to federal requirements for how information is disseminated to the public

- Coordinating the sharing of information and project feedback across various federal and state agencies
- Analyzing the ways that distinct sets of data could inform a cohesive approach to each unique planning project

STRATEGY

The HRF was assigned to provide support on multiple planning projects occurring simultaneously. They attended Project Management Team meetings, read past reports, and copyedited newly drafted reports to obtain grounding in the subject matter. The memos and reports developed by the HRF were refined through discussion with the planning team. The HRF took the lead on documenting survey results and conducting public involvement activities, utilizing the Project Management Teams for guidance and feedback.

RESULTS

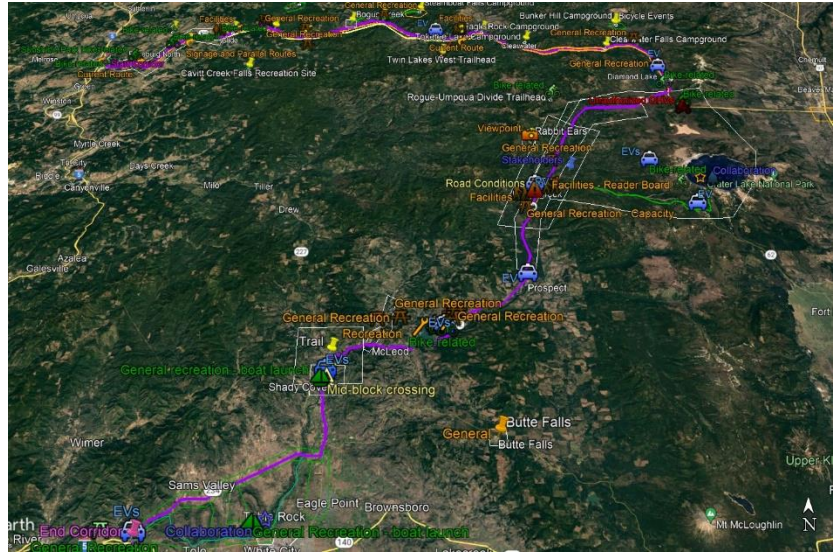
At the completion of the fellowship, the HRF achieved the following results:

- Developed memos, reports, and/or slide decks for Rogue-Umpqua Corridor Master Plan, Bonnie Brae Access FLAP, Turnagain Pass Master Plan, and Highway 224 Strategic Plan
- Provided project management support in the form of supplementary documentation, public outreach, copyediting, and activity coordination for Rogue-Umpqua Corridor Master Plan, Bonnie Brae Access FLAP, Turnagain Pass Master Plan, Alaska LRTP, McCarthy Road PEL, and Copper River Access FLAP

SELECTED PROJECTS

Rogue-Umpqua Corridor Master Plan:

The Rogue-Umpqua Scenic Corridor in southern Oregon is a collection of highways enabling access to various towns and recreation opportunities between Roseburg and Gold Hill, as well as Crater Lake National Park. The lands are under jurisdiction of federal, state, and city agencies; the corridor project brings these government entities together with the public to propose safety and user experience improvements. The HRF created a comprehensive map of public comments received during project outreach (shown at right) to serve as a visual overview of public input and inform specific recommendations. They coordinated focus group discussions with regional stakeholders across the corridor to populate the comment map. The HRF also created visuals for the project's Existing Conditions report and drafted the Demand Management Analysis, providing thorough copyediting on final project documents.



Bonnie Brae Access FLAP Study:

The community of Bonnie Brae is located on Douglas Island in the City and Borough of Juneau, Alaska. It contains a makeshift pathway (shown at left) that enables users to access the nearby Treadwell Ditch trail system on federal land. The Bonnie Brae access trail features dilapidated plank walkways, loose soil, and other safety hazards. This study aims to evaluate potential improvements to the trail and also plan for an expected increase in visitors if such improvements are made, while recognizing the limitations of the trail's location in an established residential neighborhood. The HRF created reports on the results of two separate public involvement surveys that were conducted for this study. The HRF also coordinated the second set of public outreach initiatives and drafted the Final Report for the project.

