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Celebration of Oneonta Tunnel reopening on Saturday ***Restoration of Oneonta Tunnel has been under way since 2006***

The Oregon Department of Transportation is holding a community celebration and ribbon cutting for the reopening of the Oneonta Tunnel on Saturday, March 21. After being filled with debris for more than 60 years the restoration of this Historic Columbia River Highway tunnel is complete. The restoration project includes reopening the tunnel to pedestrians and bicycle traffic, and the completion of an improved parking area for the Oneonta Gorge area.

Originally constructed in 1914, the tunnel and adjacent Oneonta Bridge were part of the original alignment of Historic Columbia River Highway. In 1948, the narrow tunnel was abandoned and the historic highway was realigned. For safety reasons the Oneonta Tunnel was closed. ODOT and the Western Federal Lands Highway division of the Federal Highway Administration began construction to reopen and restore the tunnel in June 2006.

Please join us for a community celebration of the Oneonta Gorge tunnel **Saturday, March 21, 11 a.m. A shuttle bus will pick up visitors and take them to the Oneonta Tunnel. To park and ride the shuttle bus, exit Interstate 84 at exit 35, Ainsworth exit and parking will be available immediately adjacent to the exit.** Please note that no parking is available near the site of the Oneonta Tunnel, which is 35 miles east of Portland.

Historic video of the tunnel and pictures of the restoration project are available on request. This project is part of a larger goal of reconnecting abandoned segments of the Historic Columbia River Highway for recreational use.

##ODOT##