

Washington State Parks & **Recreation Commission**

Commission Work Session

Washington State Scenic **Bikeways Program**

Presented by: Bry Osmonson Scenic Bikeways Coordinator

August 27, 2025



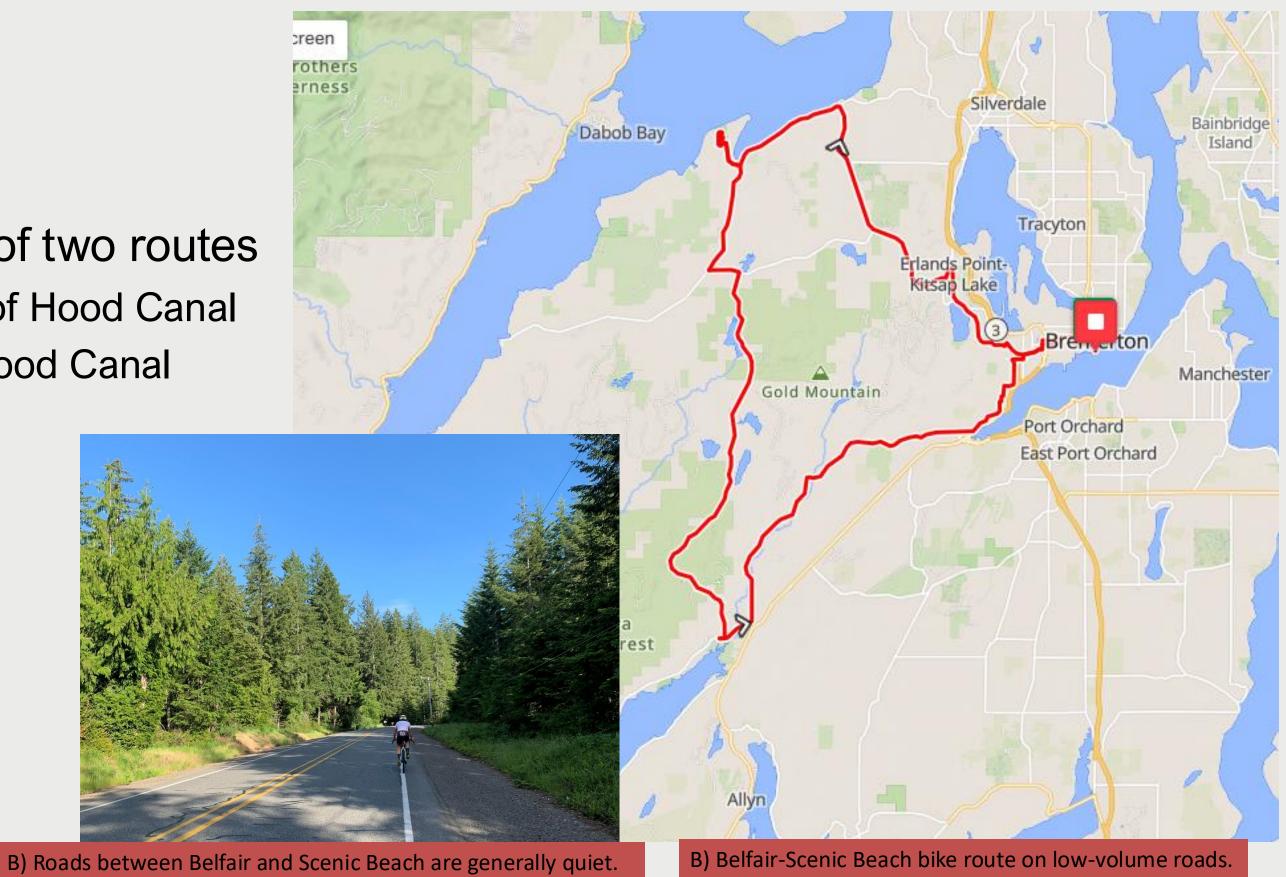
What are we here for?

- Provide an update on the Scenic Bikeways Program
- Ready to launch the Scenic Bikeways Program



Welcome

- Bike camping: a tale of two routes
 - -A) Clockwise outside of Hood Canal
 - B) Triangle inside of Hood Canal



Presentation Outline

- Section 1 Program Establishment
- Section 2 Program Development
- Section 3 Program Launch



Section 1 – Program Establishment



What is a Scenic Bikeway?

- Scenic bikeways may be comprised of bicycle paths, multiple-use trails, highways, or trail facilities managed by the commission
- ...notable scenic, recreational, cultural, or historic value
- ...encourage local economic development

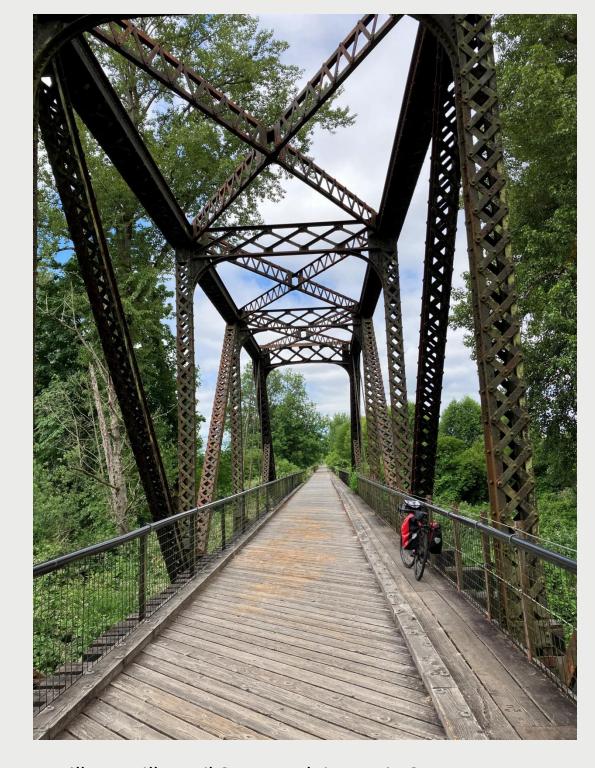




Quiet roads between Seabeck, WA and Scenic Beach State Park.

RCW 79A.05.800

- Enacted in 2020
- State Parks to oversee
- Coordinate with WSDOT, local governments collaborative intent
- Consent from bikeway owners
- Oregon Scenic Bikeways model legislation



Willapa Hills Trail State Park in Lewis County.

Oregon Scenic Bikeways Model

18 Routes over 17 years

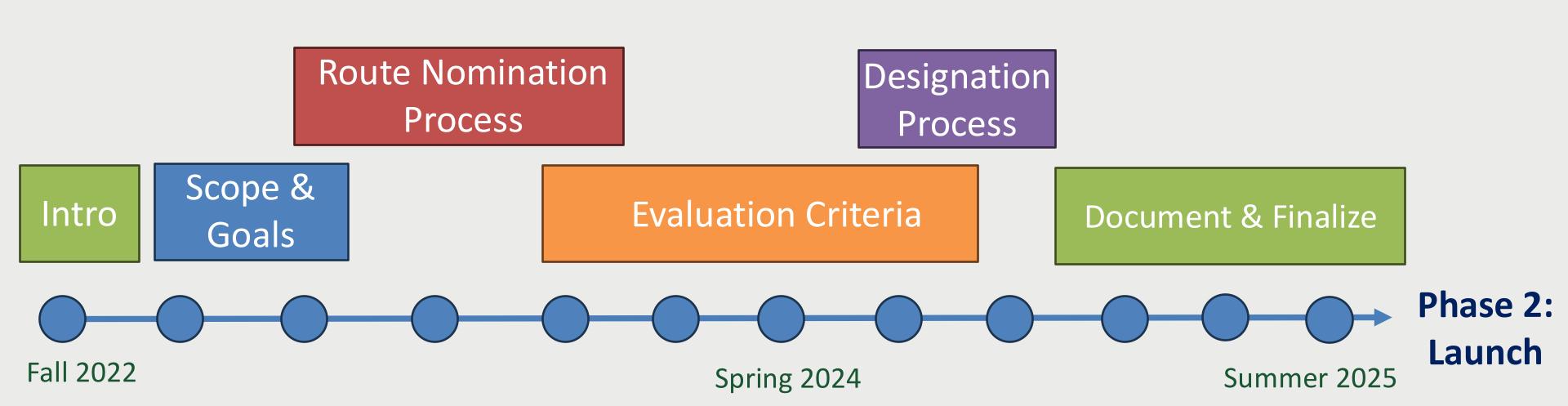




Section 2 – Program Development



Program Development Process

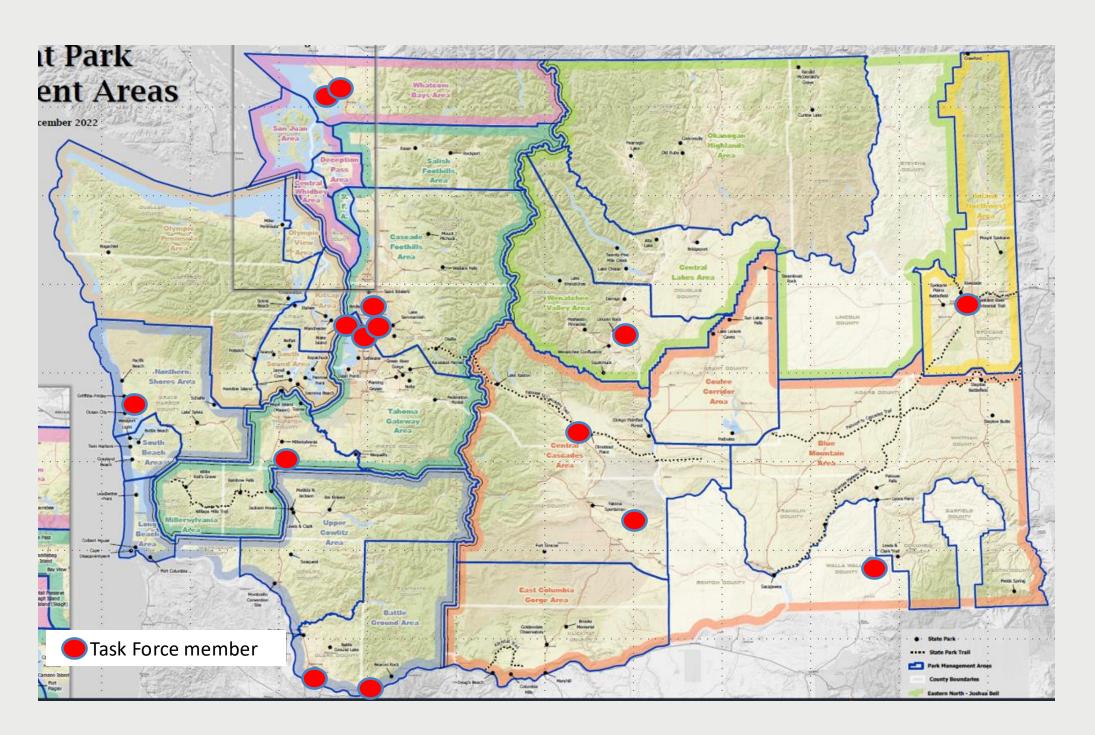


Phase 1: Program Development



Task Force

- Spring 2023-present
- Advisory nature
- Scope: Program development & evaluate in first round
- Perspectives: cyclists, tourism, WSDOT, Tribal, veteran, disability, adaptive cyclists, retired, bike advocacy, land manager, youth





Tribal Engagement

- Initiated spring 2023
- Meetings, e-mails, task force participation



Tribal Engagement Takeaways

- Consideration of potential impacts on Tribes
- Early and continuous engagement
- Include opportunities for Tribal perspectives
- Coordination with Tribal Relations



Outreach

- Advisory Task Force (9 meetings; 15 people from around the state)
- Internal advisory group (5-10 mtgs: Comms, Planning/RE, Stewardship, Region Superintendent, Area Managers from all regions)
- DNR, WDFW, WSDOT (Active Transportation & Scenic Byways)
- State of WA Tourism; WA State Destination Marketing Organizations (DMO's)
- WA State Trails Coalition Conference
- Association of Washington Cities
- WA State Association of Counties
- Rural Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPO's) working group



Pilot Nomination Process

5 Steps

- 1. Nomination
- 2. Presentations
- 3. Scenic Bikeways MOU
- 4. Designation
- 5. Implementation



Step 1 – Nomination

- Anyone may submit a route nomination
- Submit using Microsoft Forms online; map, photos
- Evaluation committee:
 - -2 State Parks staff
 - 4 advisory task force members including representation from WSDOT, tourism, Tribes, and at-large
- Highest scoring routes move on (up to 15)
- Send map of up to 15 proposed routes to Tribes



Step 1 – Nomination

Eligibility check
 — consistency with RCW intent

Evaluation Criteria (0-5 points)

- Proponent affiliation
- Access to the route
- Bikeway types
- Unique experience
- Scenic, cultural/historic, recreational value



Step 2 – Presentations

- Starting with up to 15 route nominations
- Bikeway owners' (jurisdictions) acknowledgment
- Schedule virtual presentations on Teams for each route proponent
- Same evaluation committee
- Up to 5 routes move on to Step 3
 - -Staff will brief the Commission at the end of Step 2



Step 2 – Presentations

Evaluation Criteria (0-5 points)

Administration and Feasibility:

- Proponent group
- Community support/opposition
- Financial feasibility

Inherent Values and Experience:

- Scenic value, cultural and historic value, recreational value
- Unique experience
- Route amenities and services
- Rider logistics
- Level of difficulty



Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail

Step 3 – Scenic Bikeways MOU

- MOU roles & responsibilities
- MOU parties:
 - Bikeway owners
 - Destination Marketing Organizations (DMO's)
 - State Parks
 - Other responsible parties (e.g. Tribes)
- Establishes State Parks as primary contact for Tribal engagement

Draft – subject to change without notification

2/5/2025

SCENIC BIKEWAY DESIGNATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

[ENTER: Party 1 – bikeway landowner]; [ENTER: Party 2 – marketing lead];

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commiss

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made and ent landowner], having offices for the transaction of business at [add 3], [1], hereinafter referred to as the "[Casual Name of Party 1]," [Party 2 marketing lead], aving office the transaction of business at [address], hereinafter referred to as the "[Care I Name of Party 2 and the State of Washington through its Washington State Parks and Regulation Commission, having fices for the transaction of business at [address], hereinafter record to as the "Commission," referred to individually as a "Party" or collectively as ".

WHEREAS, pursuant to Revised Code of hashington ("RCW") Legislature directed the Commission to Program") for the designation and promun of bic, cultural, or historic value; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 704,05.800, the nission has established the [Scenic Bikeway er describe and depicted in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and the 2025 Scenic Bike. Program nination and evaluation process described in

WHEREAS, the Parties are sof designation and implementing the Scenic Bikeway described

n of the mutual promises set forth hereinafter, the Parties

The purpose is MOU if (1) demonstrate support of all parties necessary to establish and cessfully established, implemented, and promoted Scenic Bikeway.

SECTION 2: TERM

The term of the MOU shall be twenty years (20) from the date of the establishment of the Scenic Bikeway. This MOU may be renewed upon mutual agreement by the Parties for an additional ten-year



Step 3 – Scenic Bikeways MOU

- Further review of top 5 proposed routes:
 - Tribes draft MOU review
 - WSDOT, local governments
 - Environmental checklist

Draft – subject to change without notification

2/5/2025

SCENIC BIKEWAY DESIGNATION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

[ENTER: Party 1 – bikeway landowner]; [ENTER: Party 2 – marketing lead]; [ENTER: Other parties as appropriate]

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commissi

This Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") is made and en landowner], having offices for the transaction of business at [add s], 1 landowner], having offices for the transaction of business at [add s], 1 landowner] to as the "[Casual Name of Party 1]," [Party 2 marketing lead], aving office the transaction of business at [address], hereinafter referred to as the "[Cart.]. Name of Party 2. and the State of Washington through its Washington State Parks and Revention Commission, having tices for the transaction of business at [address], hereinafter proved to as the "Commission," referred to individually as a "Party" or collectively as "

WHEREAS, pursuant to Revised Code of hishington ("RCW") Legislature directed the Commission to Program") for the designation and promun of bic, scenic bikeway ogram ("Scenic Bikeways cultural, or historic value; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 704.05.800, the mission has established the [Scenic Bikeway er describe and depicted in Exhibit "A" attached hereto and incorporated herein by grence, the light he route the 2025 Scenic Biker Program nination and evaluation process described in

WHEREAS, the Parties are and implementing the Scenic Bikeway described

n considerange of the mutual promises set forth hereinafter, the Parties herete derstand and ago s follows

The purpose is MOU if (1) demonstrate support of all parties necessary to establish and ccessfully established, implemented, and promoted Scenic Bikeway.

SECTION 2: TERM

The term of the MOU shall be twenty years (20) from the date of the establishment of the Scenic Bikeway. This MOU may be renewed upon mutual agreement by the Parties for an additional ten-year



Step 4 – Designation

- Commission role:
 - Review and consider approval of up to 5 Scenic Bikeway designation(s)
 - Delegate authority to Director to sign future MOUs (and any future amendments)
- Opportunity for public comment
- Communication to Tribes post-designation



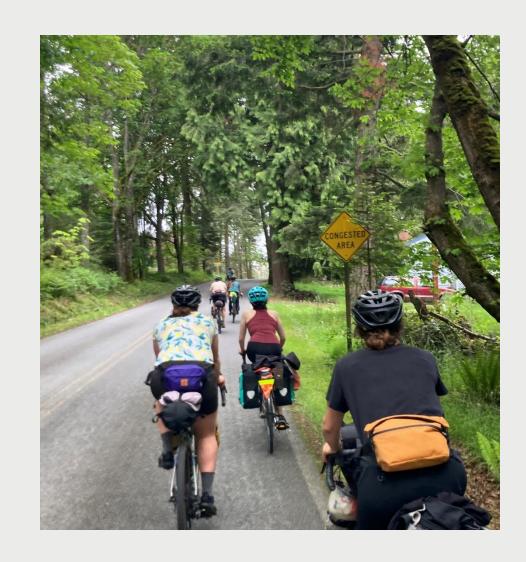
Step 5: Implementation

What State Parks will do:

- Plan, design, and procure initial Scenic Bikeway signs
- Develop official Scenic Bikeways route map

What MOU parties will do:

- Install and maintain signage
- Route marketing



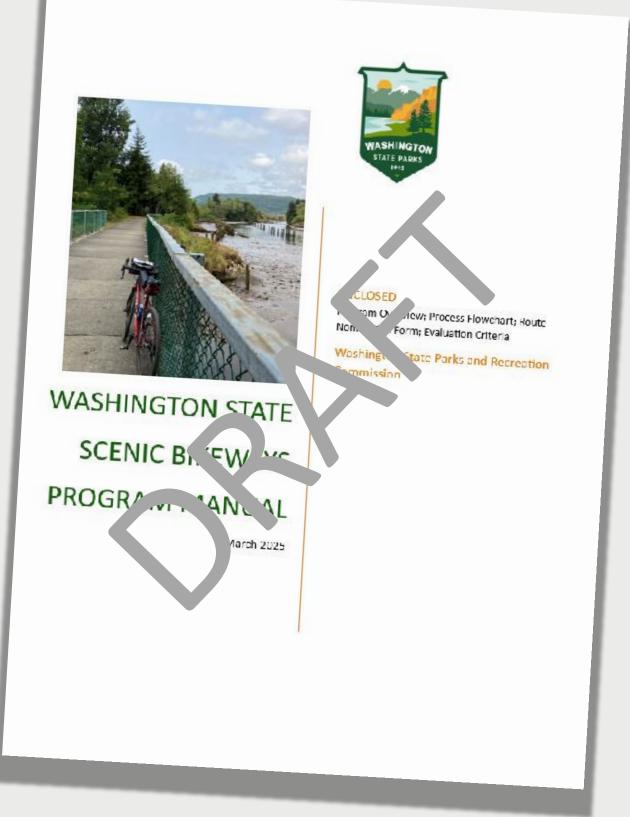
Bike camping on Orcas Island, en route to Moran State Park.

Section 3 – Program Launch



Scenic Bikeways Program Manual

- Summary of program development
- Instructions for proponents
 - Process flow chart
 - Nomination form questions
 - Evaluation criteria
- Pertinent info for potential partners and Tribes
 - MOU template
 - Involvement and reviews





Proposed Schedule

Sept 2025: Notify public of program launch

Oct-Nov: Nomination window open

Dec-Jan: Step 1 Evaluation/ initiate Tribal review

March 2026: Step 2 Evaluation

– presentations

April: Commission briefing

April-June: Step 3 MOU development/ Tribal review

July-September: Step 4 Designation

October-completion: Step 5 Implementation

• Winter 2026: Review pilot round; refine and repeat



What else should you know?

- RCW does not include a sunset
- No dedicated funding source
- Trails program budget covering first round
- Folks are excited about this program!



Thank you!

