



# YAQUINA HEAD Traffic Study

## INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE

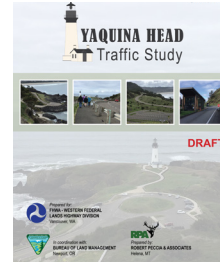
The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have conducted a study to evaluate the Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area (ONA). Increasing visitation to the Yaquina Head ONA has resulted in growing traffic congestion and risk of user conflicts. The purpose of the *Yaquina Head Traffic Study* is to determine what transportation improvements could be made to address operational, safety, and geometric needs and other areas of transportation concern. The study is a collaborative process with FHWA, BLM, Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT), the City of Newport, stakeholders, and the public to identify needs and potential solutions. Preferred improvements have been identified by the study team for review by the public. The intended outcome of the study is to provide planning-level concepts that can be advanced to environmental review, design, and construction as funding becomes available.



## NOW AVAILABLE!

The draft *Yaquina Head Traffic Study* and preferred improvements are now available for review!

FHWA and BLM are conducting a formal public review period to gather feedback before the study is finalized. The public is encouraged to review the traffic study and accompanying conceptual improvements and share any questions, comments, or concerns with the study team.



Please submit all comments by **June 17, 2022**.

All feedback received will be considered by the study team. To review available materials, submit comments, and learn more about the study please visit:

[www.yaquinalights.org/yaquina-head-traffic-study](http://www.yaquinalights.org/yaquina-head-traffic-study)

For more information or to submit comments:



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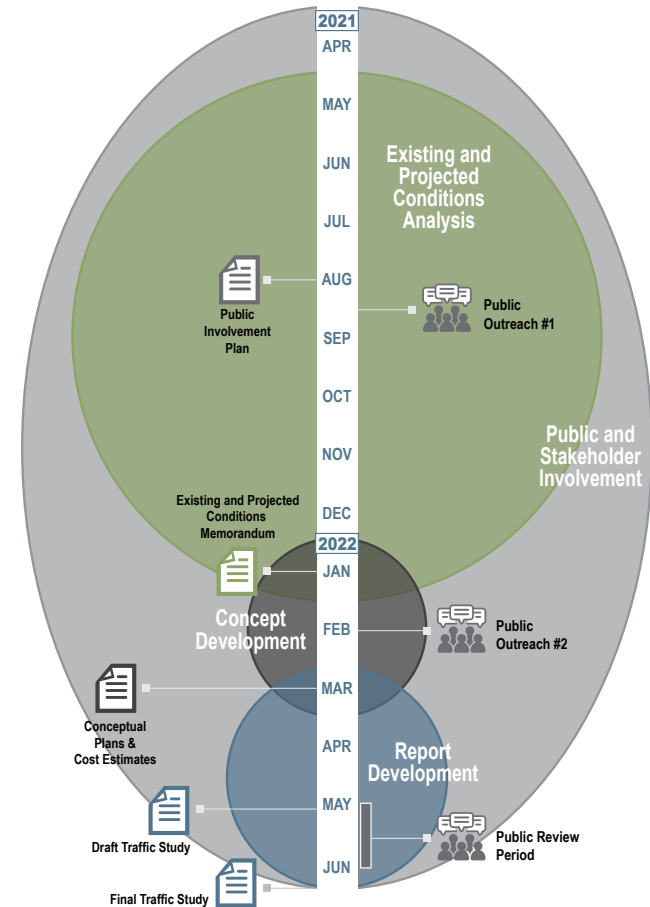
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## SCHEDULE

The *Yaquina Head Traffic Study* kicked off in April 2021. The first public outreach effort was conducted during the summer of 2021 to help inform development of the study. A second public outreach effort occurred in February 2022 in coordination with release of the *Existing and Projected Conditions Memorandum*. A third outreach effort is being held now in coordination with release of the draft *Yaquina Head Traffic Study* and a formal public and stakeholder review period. All comments received during this period will be considered and incorporated as appropriate. The final *Yaquina Head Traffic Study* is anticipated to be complete by the end of June 2022.



# STUDY AREA


Yaquina Head ONA is a 100-acre protected area managed by the BLM and officially designated by the United States as an Outstanding Natural Area due to its scenic quality, and cultural and natural resources. The ONA is located on a prominent headland north of Newport, Oregon. The site provides numerous recreation opportunities including seal, sea bird, and wildlife viewing; whale watching; tide pooling; and walking and biking.


The ONA is accessible via Lighthouse Drive which begins at the intersection with the Oregon Coast Highway (US Highway 101) at Mile Post 137.61. The Yaquina Head ONA boundary begins about 0.2 miles west of the intersection. The ONA site and the Lighthouse Drive corridor starting from the US 101 intersection serve as the primary focus area for this study, although parking facilities and multimodal corridors outside the Yaquina Head ONA boundary are also considered in the context of connectivity and access for ONA visitors.





## KEY FINDINGS


The draft *Yaquina Head Traffic Study* is now available for public review on the study website ([www.yaquinalights.org/yaquina-head-traffic-study](http://www.yaquinalights.org/yaquina-head-traffic-study))! The report provides a summary of transportation and environmental conditions, identifies areas of concern within the study area, and presents preferred improvements to address identified needs as summarized below.

 **SITE CIRCULATION:** Inefficient circulation occurs at the **entrance station**, sometimes resulting in long delays and unsafe turnaround maneuvers. Circulation within the Yaquina Head ONA **parking areas**, including Quarry Cove, Interpretive Center, and lighthouse circle, could also be improved. **Large vehicle circulation** is particularly challenging in some parking areas.

 **SPEEDS:** Speeding was noted as a concern by staff and the public. Collected traffic data showed vehicles **speeding** in the 15-mph zones on the Quarry Cove access road and near the Keeper's Garden.

 **PARKING:** Visitors are often frustrated with **traffic cones at the Interpretive Center**, resulting in unsafe bypass or turning maneuvers. Visitor frustration also occurs due to lack of available parking at **lighthouse circle**. Additional **large vehicle and ADA parking stalls** are desired throughout the site.

 **PEDESTRIAN ACCOMMODATIONS:** Lighthouse Drive lacks **dedicated pedestrian facilities** between the US 101 intersection and the entrance station, and **gaps** in pedestrian facilities occur along the Quarry Cove access roadway. The Yaquina Head ONA lacks designated **crosswalks** in key locations where pedestrians typically cross Lighthouse Drive. Additionally, there is poor **multimodal connectivity** to facilities outside the ONA.

 **ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS:** The site is located in an area that is **susceptible to landslides, earthquakes, coastal erosion, tsunami, and potential flooding**. There are steep slopes in several locations that may limit potential improvements. All improvements should be sensitive to native plant and animal species and be mindful of impacts to the **threatened and endangered species** that are known to occur in the area. The Yaquina Head Lighthouse is on the **National Register of Historic Places** and may be subject to federal protections. As an ONA, it is important to protect the environment and minimize impacts.

## PREFERRED IMPROVEMENTS

Preferred configurations have been prepared for the following four key locations at the ONA.

- Yaquina Head Entrance Station
- Quarry Cove Upper Parking Lot
- Interpretive Center Parking Lot
- Lighthouse Circle / Keeper's Garden

Additional sitewide strategies to address areas of concern have also been identified. To review the preferred configurations and sitewide strategies and to provide your input, please visit the study website:

[www.yaquinalights.org/yaquina-head-traffic-study](http://www.yaquinalights.org/yaquina-head-traffic-study)

All feedback will be considered by the study team.

PLEASE SUBMIT ALL COMMENTS BY

**JUNE 17, 2022**