

Marine Highway M-84

Sponsor: Port of Portland, OR; Port of Benton, WA

Supporters: The Pacific Northwest Waterways Association

Landside Route Served: Interstate-84

Route Description:

The M-84 connects to the M-5 Route in Astoria, OR and includes the Columbia, Willamette and Snake Rivers, connecting commercial navigation channels, ports, and harbors. It spans Oregon, Washington, and Idaho from Astoria, OR, to Lewiston, ID, and a 26-mile portion of the Willamette River from Willamette Falls to the confluence with the Columbia River.

Attributes:

I-84, which parallels the Columbia River in Oregon, has been identified as a freight truck bottleneck by the U.S. Department of Transportation, resulting in up to 750,000 truck hours of delay annually. This is also noted by U.S. DOT as an area of major rail congestion. Containers from the Ports of Seattle, Tacoma, and Portland currently move by truck on I-84 (and I-5), and 55 percent of the region's container market moves through the Puget Sound, causing additional truck and rail freight traffic between these ports.

Increasing the use of the water route paralleling I-84 can help mitigate landside congestion, reduce air emissions, and conserve energy. A container-on-barge service currently calling on smaller ports along the Columbia and Snake Rivers is one example of the Route's potential. A proposed weekly service between the Ports of Umatilla, Portland, Seattle, and Tacoma could also accommodate the equivalent of 36,000 trucks that travel the I-5 landside Route each year. An operation like this could serve both agricultural exporters and importers in the Pacific Northwest shipping to far Eastmarkets.

Marine Highways
— M-84
— Other Marine Highway Routes

0 45 90 180
Miles

Projection:
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Data Sources:
1. International Boundaries: IPUMS
(<https://international.ipums.org/international/gis.shtml>)
2. Bathymetry data: Michael Baker International
3. Marine Highways: MARAD/DOT

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