

Tour De Corridor

Northbound from the I-5 Bridge: The I-5 Corridor in Washington travels through Vancouver, the second largest city in the region, and urban unincorporated Clark County.

Just north of the bridge are several important transportation facilities: The Union Pacific Railroad east/west mainline, ramps connecting I-5 to State Route 14, and overhead but less obvious airspace for the Pearson Airpark runway. Further east, between SR 14 and the Columbia River is a redeveloping industrial area that includes Columbia Business Center, restaurants and row houses, and parks and historic sites.

Continuing north, there are many public uses east of I-5 in an area called Central Park. This historic area was one of the first non-native settlements in the territory, established by Hudson Bay Trading Company. Currently located in the area are: Fort Vancouver National Historic Site including Fort Vancouver, Officer's Row and Pearson Airpark, plus Clark College and Hudson Bay High School, the Veteran's Administration Hospital and Military Cemetery, and a public pool, library, and museum.

West of I-5 is downtown Vancouver, which is the central city in Southwest Washington. Public and private investments are rejuvenating the central business district with new commercial and residential developments. West of downtown, along the Columbia River are industrial uses and shipping terminals located in the Port of Vancouver which also includes a significant supply of vacant developable industrial land. Vancouver Lake and the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad mainline and switching yard are also located west of downtown.

Continuing north are central Vancouver residential neighborhoods and early suburban neighborhoods. East of the highway is the Bonneville Power Administration Ross Substation facility. This large federal complex houses BPA's federal electrical transmission maintenance and operations facility and corporate office campus.

I-5 leaves the City of Vancouver and enters the unincorporated Clark County community of Hazel Dell. Hazel Dell is an older mixed use community where residential and commercial infill development is occurring on vacant agricultural land and previously developed large lots. Paralleling I-5 to the east is Highway 99, which was the main route between Oregon and Canada prior to construction of I-5. The Highway 99 corridor includes a mixture of commercial, multi-family residential, and light industrial land uses. This section of I-5 is also being reconstructed to provide additional capacity, including future HOV lanes, to address the projected growth in traffic.

At the northern end of the corridor, I-5 and I-205 and Highway 99 converge in the unincorporated community of Salmon Creek. Salmon Creek Regional Park is located west of I-5. The Salmon Creek community is quickly changing from rural residential to a mixed density residential community with retail and other new and diverse land uses. The nearby Washington State University campus is northeast of the corridor.

Oregon Side

The study portion of the I-5 corridor in Oregon begins at the interchange with Interstate 84 (I-84). I-5 passes first through the Rose Quarter/Lloyd District area. The Lloyd District to the east of I-5 is Portland's second downtown with several major commercial, office and government uses including Bonneville Power Administration, Liberty Mutual Insurance and Lloyd Center, the largest shopping mall in the northwest. The most prominent feature of the Rose Quarter just to the west of I-5 is the Rose Garden, the home of the Portland Trailblazers.

As the corridor moves north it passes through an industrial area west of I-5 is Swan Island, home of Freightliner and several other major industrial uses to the east is an area with several smaller uses.

As I-5 moves north of Going St it enters the neighborhoods of Northeast Portland. The neighborhoods of Northeast Portland are the most culturally and economically diverse in the city. The freeway is a cut through this area, with homes and business abutting both sides.

North of Lombard Street the corridor opens up as the freeway crosses over Columbia Blvd. To the east Columbia Blvd connects I-5 with the Columbia Corridor industrial area a major freight and distribution area. Directly to the west of the freeway is Portland International Raceway, site of several major sporting events, to the east is Delta Park.

Further north is Marine Drive, the primary freight access to the Rivergate area and the dock facilities of the Port of Portland. The corridor ends at Hayden Island, which is home to several neighborhoods as well and the Jantzen Beach shopping center.