



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **New Cape Meares Loop Road Restores Three Capes Scenic Route**

*The historic road, connecting Cape Meares and Oceanside, enhances safety and tourism*

**TILLAMOOK, Ore., 10 JULY 2024** — Tillamook County proudly announces the reopening of Cape Meares Loop Road, a crucial connector between Cape Meares and Oceanside, and the critical piece in restoring the historic Three Capes Scenic Route. This milestone follows a decade of dedicated efforts in design, funding, relocation, and construction after the road was closed in 2013 due to severe landslide damage.

The original Cape Meares Loop Road has faced challenges since 1877 when the first slides occurred. In November 2012, a significant landslide caused extensive damage, leading to the closure of the road in 2013. Liane Welch, former director of Tillamook County Public Works, reflects on the historical challenges: "In my ten and a half years, we had seven federally declared flood events in Tillamook County. Monitoring points moved 12-13 feet horizontally in eight months, making it imperative to close the road for safety."

Despite the active slide, maintaining access between Cape Meares and Oceanside was essential for community safety and emergency response. Welch explained, "We explored various options, and relocating the road east and upslope was the most cost-effective solution. This design places the new alignment above the active land movement."

Nan Devlin, Executive Director of the Tillamook Coast Visitors Association, highlights the scenic value of the new route: "The two pullover spots being constructed now offer stunning views. One overlooks the ocean with a breathtaking view of Three Arch Rocks, and the other provides a miles-long vista of bays, reaching all the way to Manzanita on clear days."

Chris Laity, current director of Tillamook County Public Works, emphasizes the road's significance, "This road is a destination in itself, part of the historic Three Capes Scenic Route. We've restored a significant corridor for tourism, turning it into a tourist destination in its own right."

Special construction techniques were employed to protect Coleman Creek, the main water source for Cape Meares, demonstrating Tillamook Coast's strong commitment to environmental stewardship.

The Tillamook Coast Visitors Association commissioned a video documenting the project. "Rebuilding the Scenic Cape Meares Loop Road" was produced in collaboration with Sea Legs Media and is available for viewing [at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fg6ll\\_VmcbQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fg6ll_VmcbQ).

For more information on Cape Meares Loop Road, contact TCVA executive director Nan Devlin at [nan@tillamookcoast.com](mailto:nan@tillamookcoast.com).

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**About Visit Tillamook Coast**

Tillamook Coast Visitors Association (dba Visit Tillamook Coast) is a destination management organization committed to sustainable tourism principles of community, stewardship and economic vitality. We support the Tillamook Coast through initiatives guided by those principles, including outdoor recreation, accessibility, culinary/agritourism, cultural heritage/arts, community development, natural resources and public safety. For more information, visit [www.tillamookcoast.com](http://www.tillamookcoast.com).