

CHAPTER 2: PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

This chapter contains descriptions of alternatives identified to address the problems in the project area. The two alternatives analyzed in this environmental assessment include a No Build Alternative, that is, the alternative of leaving things as they are, and a Build Alternative, which is a proposed solution to the traffic problem. This chapter also includes an explanation of those alternatives proposed early in the process but not carried forward for further analysis in this environmental assessment.

2.1 The No Build Alternative

What if nothing is done in the project area?

The No Build Alternative would leave Highway 26 as it currently is in the Wildwood-Wemme area. The highway would not be widened. It would continue to be a four-lane highway with no new provisions made for left turns to and from the highway. Routine

maintenance would continue as needed. ODOT analyzes the effects of a No Build Alternative and compares it to the proposed Build Alternative(s) to provide a basis for comparison.

2.2 Widen to the North Alternative

What is the proposed alternative?

The Widen to the North Alternative is the proposed alternative, recommended by the project team with support from the public, to be analyzed in this environmental assessment as a safety solution for the project area.

What is included in the Widen to the North Alternative?

The Widen to the North Alternative is illustrated in Figures 2-1, 2-2, and 2-3 a, b and c. If implemented, the project would add a 14-foot median turn lane that would allow for continuous left-turns, accommodate four 12-foot travel lanes, include 8-foot shoulder/bikeways on each side of the highway, and add two additional feet on the north side of the highway where guardrail is needed, mainly

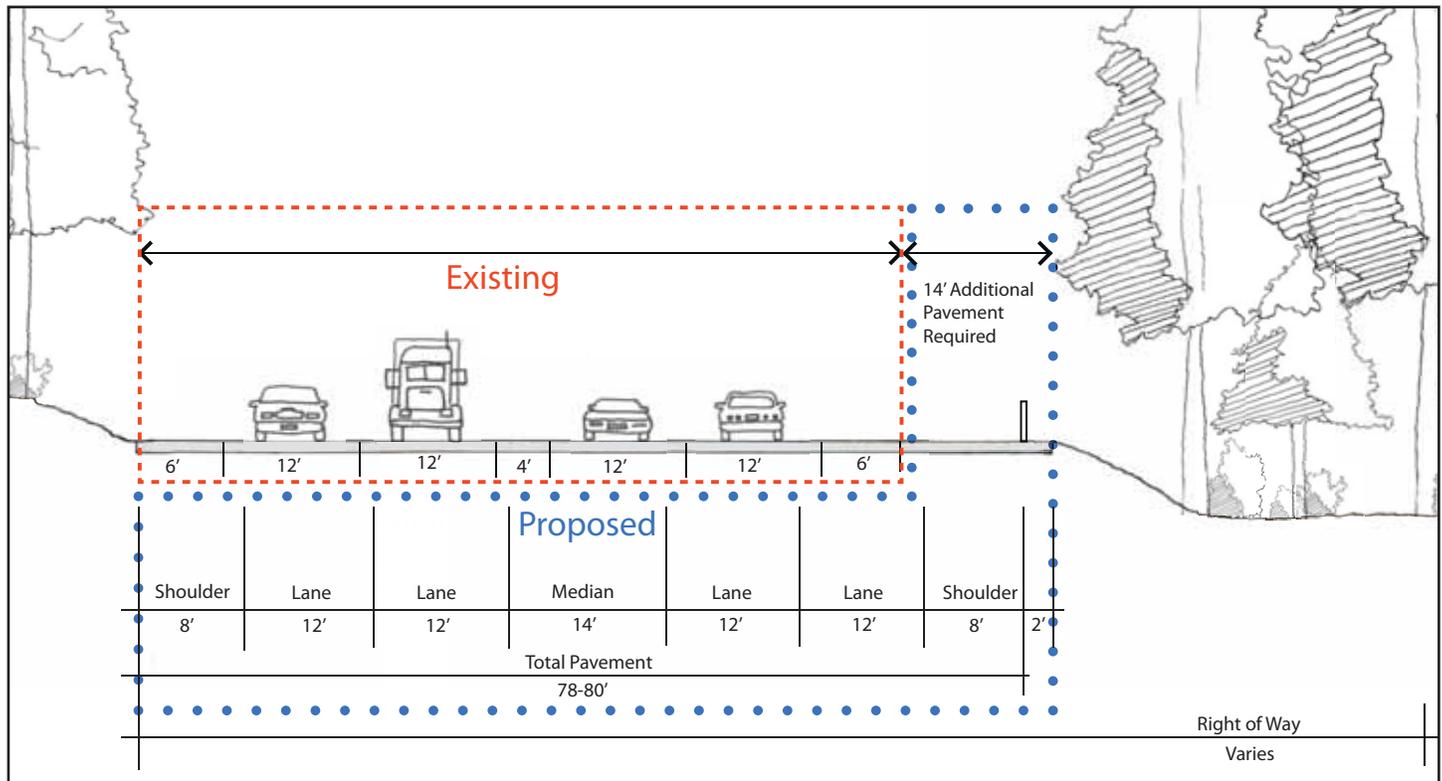


Figure 2-1: Widen to the North Alternative



Figure 2-3 (a) Widen to the North Alternative

