

# Rationale for Selecting the Preferred Alternative

## Range of Alternatives Considered

Of the five separate alternatives considered, with over thirty variations or options, the Preferred Alternative was most effective at reducing congestion and improving vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle traffic flow and safety from the H.B. Van Duzer Forest Corridor to Steel Bridge Road. A main consideration, along with safety and traffic flow in the corridor, was minimizing community and environmental impacts. Included in the consideration of impacts to the communities are impacts on residents, businesses, forest and farming operations, utilities and facilities, and cultural resources. Included in the consideration of impacts to the environment are impacts to threatened chinook salmon and steelhead, threatened plants, wetlands, and water quality.

## Evaluation Criteria

ODOT used the following criteria to evaluate the alternatives, determining that the alternative should:

- Meet the project goals of reducing traffic congestion and crashes
- Evaluate the input of citizens
- Maintain reasonable project costs
- Minimize impacts to the local communities
- Minimize impacts to the environment

## Reasons for Selecting the Preferred Alternative

Following are the reasons the Preferred Alternative was selected for implementation.

The Preferred Alternative:

- Can be constructed easily in phases, upon need, and as funding becomes available.
- Uses the existing roadway and infrastructure to the greatest extent possible, avoiding the need for new highway alignments.
- Provides controlled access and therefore improves safety throughout the corridor.
- Combines two major access points (Valley Junction and Spirit Mountain Casino) into one grade-separated interchange for safer and more efficient access.
- Avoids affecting the historically significant H.B. Van Duzer Forest Corridor.
- Provides a grade-separated interchange for the Grand Ronde community to improve safety for all users of the road system, and to improve efficiency of movement at that intersection.

- Provides safer access for individual properties with a local access road system.
- Provides protection to the travelling public from cross-over accidents (installation of non-traversable medians).
- Reduces long-term impacts to fish species, hydrology, and water quality in the South Yamhill River by replacing old bridges with new single-span structures.