

US 20: OR 126 Junction to Deschutes River Bridge

Project Overview

The US 20: OR 126 Jct. – Deschutes River Bridge project is located on the McKenzie-Bend Highway in Deschutes County and extends from the junction right before the Sisters city limits for approximately 15 miles along US 20. US 20 is a critical part of the State’s transportation system and a major east-west freight corridor across Oregon. This section of highway is also an important commuter route between Sisters, Redmond and Bend.

Over the past five years, this stretch of highway has reported over 150 crashes with 10% being fatal or severe. The purpose of this project is to improve roadway condition and safety by installing centerline rumble strips, pavement preservation, intersection signing improvements and striping along this section of highway.

Rumble Strips

Rumble strips are an effective countermeasure for reducing roadway departure crashes. The noise and vibration produced by rumble strips alert drivers when they leave the traveled way. Several different kinds of rumble strips are typically installed on a roadway:

- Centerline rumble strips are installed at or near the center line of an undivided roadway, and may be comprised of either a single or double line of rumbles. They reduce cross center line crashes such as head-on collisions, sideswipes and some run-off-road left crashes.
- Where wide enough, shoulder rumble strips are installed on a shoulder near the edge of the travel lane. They significantly reduce run-off-road crashes.

Research has shown that installing rumble strips can reduce severe crashes. In fact, on rural two-lane roads, like US 20, the installation of rumble strips can reduce head-on and sideswipe fatal and injury collisions by 45%.

Mitigating Noise

The unusual noise tires make as they cross over rumble strips keeps drivers alive—but it may also keep neighbors awake. To fulfill their purpose, rumble strips must make enough noise inside the vehicle and tires must drop into the rumble to cause enough vibration to get the driver's attention.

Due to roadway width restrictions and to reduce noise caused by rumble strips, ODOT will install centerline rumble strips throughout this project **except** in Tumalo and within the city limits of Sisters.

Timeline & Cost

Project development – 2016

Estimated cost: \$4.5 million

Bid opening – Fall 2016

Construction – Spring – Summer 2017

More information

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