

US 97: Romaine Village Way to Lava Butte

Last updated: August 18, 2016

Project Components

- Widen the highway to the west and install concrete median barrier from Baker Road to Lava Butte, with a break at the High Desert Museum entrance and for the emergency vehicle turn around
- Repave approximately 5 miles of US 97 in the southbound travel lanes from Romaine Village Way to the weigh station and the northbound lanes from Romaine Village Way to Lava Butte
- Install an emergency vehicle turn around at the north end of Lava Butte
- Upgrade signs and striping as necessary, and install shoulder rumble strips

Why the project is needed

US 97 is a critical part of the State's transportation system and is a major north-south freight corridor that links California and Washington. This section of highway is an important commuter route between Bend, Sunriver and La Pine. Keeping highways in good condition and providing a safe, efficient transportation system that supports economic opportunity is a critical aspect of the mission for the Oregon Department of Transportation.



The section of US 97 between Romaine Village Way and the weigh station and the northbound section of the highway between Lava Butte and Romaine Village Way are showing signs of rutting and extensive wear. In the last ten years there have also been 87 reported crashes between where the existing concrete median barrier ends south of Baker Road and where it begins again near Lava Butte. Of these reported crashes, eight have been head-on and three have been swipe crashes, resulting in five deaths and numerous injuries.

What is planned

In order to install the concrete median barrier, the highway will be widened 6-8' to the west to maintain adequate shoulder width. Once the widening is completed, a median concrete barrier will be installed with a gap in the barrier to facilitate visitor traffic at the High Desert Museum. The planned median barrier will reduce serious cross over crashes. An emergency services turn around north of Lava Butte where the median barrier currently ends will also be constructed to facilitate manageable response times.

The section of highway between Romaine Village Way and Lava Butte will then be repaved with a 2" dense asphalt inlay. Shoulder rumble strips will be installed once the paving is completed. Signs and striping will also be upgraded where needed.

Traffic control during construction

Construction is anticipated to take place during the day and at night. Southbound lane closures, travel lane shifts and short delays can be expected.

ODOT Region 4 Project Information

Timeline

Project Development	2013-2015
Bid Opening	April 2016
Construction	June - October 2016

Estimated Construction Cost

\$8.5 million

Contacts

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For more information on this and other highway projects visit:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION4/Pages/RoadworkImprovements.aspx>

