



Oregon Department of Transportation

# NEWS RELEASE

**Region 4** *Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Jefferson, Wheeler, Deschutes, Crook, Klamath and Lake Counties*

September 23, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **ODOT Narrows US97 Bend North Corridor Options**

BEND - Following an extensive period of internal and external review of alternatives to improve traffic on US97 north of Bend, the Steering Team tasked with selecting choices to move forward has narrowed the field to two.

Initially developed as a Refinement Plan for US97 and US20, the US97 Bend North Corridor Project incorporated public comment into an Environmental Impact Statement process that kicked off last January with three alternatives that were taken into the public comment process: A westerly route; an easterly route; and use of the existing US97 corridor.

During its Steering Team meeting on Tuesday, September 23, representatives of the Citizen Advisory Committee, ODOT, Deschutes County and the City of Bend agreed to eliminate the use of the existing US97 corridor from further study.

This decision provides for the westerly route, or the West "A" option and the easterly route, or East "A" to be carried further into the draft Environmental Impact Statement, from which a final recommendation for a single corridor will be recommended by ODOT to the Federal Highway Administration for approval and funding. The easterly route, or East "A", will be the preferred option that ODOT carries forward.

The continuing process of public involvement is expected to yield a single ODOT recommended alternative by Fall of 2009.

**##ODOT##**

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