

US 97: Sand Creek Passing Lane Project

Last updated: March 31, 2009

Location

The US 97 Sand Creek Passing Lane Project is located approximately 40 miles north of Klamath Falls, Oregon in Klamath County between mileposts 229 and 232.

Why the Project is Needed

US 97 is a critical part of the State's transportation system and is classified as an Expressway. The highway carries a high volume of freight and recreational traffic from the California to the Washington border. It is also an important highway for local traffic. Keeping roads in good condition and providing for safe travel are critical parts of the mission for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT).



This project is being funded by the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The mix of vehicles (freight, recreational and passenger cars) lends itself to large speed differentials. This section of highway has limited passing opportunities due to the traffic type and volume.

A review of the crash history between mileposts 221 and 241 on US 97 revealed 64 crashes during the period of January 2005 through December 2007. Of the 64 crashes, 60 of them (94%) would benefit from the construction of the passing lanes. There was one fatality crash during that period that resulted in five deaths. Of the 64 crashes, 46 (72%) occurred during icy or snowy road conditions.

There are other passing lanes at mileposts 220 and 245, which is a travel distance of approximately 25 minutes. Like most other passing lanes along US 97, these are approximately a mile in length. This does not provide large trucks enough time to pass other trucks or slow moving vehicles.

What is Planned

To address these problems in this section of US 97, the following actions are planned:

- Construct a two mile passing lane for both northbound and southbound traffic.
- Install passing lane related signs.

Project Timeline

Design: Winter/Spring 2009
Contract Bid Let: May 2009
Construction: Summer 2009
Completion: Fall 2009

Total Project Cost

\$8.2 million

ODOT Contacts

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Tom Feeley	Construction Project Manager	541-883-5780
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US97: SAND CREEK PASSING LANES



NOT TO SCALE

KLAMATH COUNTY

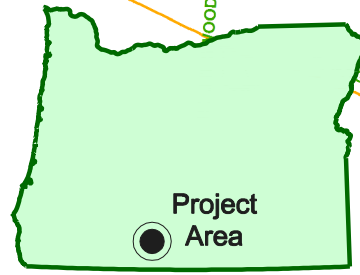
Project Area
M.P. 229.23 to M.P. 231.91

Fort Klamath

Chiloquin

Upper Klamath Lake

Crater Lake



Project Area

