



Oregon Department of Transportation

# NEWS RELEASE

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

July 29, 2011

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## ODOT Releases

### Draft US97 Bend N. Corridor Environmental Impact Statement

*Public Hearing Set for August 24*

**BEND** – Following extensive research into the benefits and impacts of the proposed change to the US97 route in the north end of Bend, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is formally releasing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for public comment.

ODOT has proposed two alternatives, both of which lie between the current US97 corridor and the BNSF railroad corridor to the east of the current route. While there are numerous distinct details with each proposed alternative, the principal difference between the two is where the new alignment reconnects with US97 north of Cooley Road. In both cases, the current US97 would become an extension of 3<sup>rd</sup> street.

Over the course of a few years, ODOT explored 21 different options to solve the safety and congestion problems along US97 in the north end of Bend. ODOT Region 4 Manager Bob Bryant stated, “Our studies of the alternatives were exhaustive.” He added, “I believe these two remaining options provide the greatest good for maintaining statewide mobility in the US97 corridor in a way that will best serve all the communities in Central Oregon well into the future.”

ODOT highway planners are inviting interested citizens to comment on the DEIS at a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, August 24 at the Riverhouse Convention Center, beginning at 5:30pm.

Copies of the DEIS are available at the project website: [www.us97solutions.org](http://www.us97solutions.org) or by contacting Rex Holloway, at 541-388-6178.

Comments on the DEIS will be accepted until September 12, 2011.

**##ODOT##**