

The dust is finally settling from a major construction project at the Fern Valley Interchange along I-5 near Phoenix. That has the city's mayor excited and planning big for the future.

"I think it sets a new tone both in terms of access for Phoenix but simultaneous plans we have for our Main Street," says Phoenix Mayor Jeff Bellah. "We cut Oregon 99 down to one lane, providing more parking and room for bikes and pedestrians. We're going to have a city center that we didn't have before with a community center and shops and a lot of development that's been lagging in Phoenix."

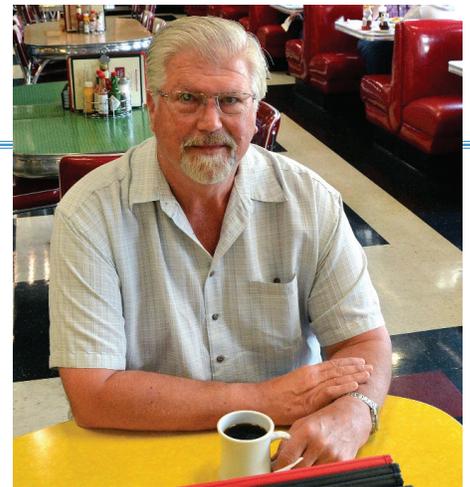
The interchange project replaced two bridges, including the narrow, two-lane I-5 overpass with a four-lane structure that includes bike lanes and sidewalks.

ODOT and the city of Phoenix agreed to the new diverging diamond design pioneered by the Missouri Department of Transportation. The design's smaller footprint reduced property costs, saving taxpayer dollars while providing a safer and more efficient solution for traffic than a standard diamond interchange.

"I lived in Kansas City for 10 years and got feedback from friends back there," says Bellah. "I think the diverging diamond is a big benefit for Phoenix."

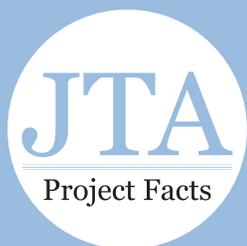
This project solves congestion and safety problems at an original I-5 interchange, following decades of growth. Bicycle and pedestrian amenities were added throughout the project area, including on Oregon 99 and its connector to I-5.

The project also revitalizes Phoenix by adding lands to the Urban Growth Boundary with easier access to I-5.



Jeff Bellah

"We are still a bedroom community of Medford," says Bellah. "We'll never be a regional shopping place but the project allowed us to be the best we can be — to have support services and provide a lot more shopping and support for our citizens."



Jobs & Transportation Act Funds:
\$25 million

Project Total:
\$69.8 million

Projected Completion: 9/2016