

Region 1
2008-2011 Construction STIP
Modernization Project Identification and Summary Report

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Project Name: US 26 Staley's Junction Improvement

Key Number: 13957

Project Location: Sunset Highway (US 26)/Nehalem Highway (OR Highway 47) at Staley's Junction Intersection MP 45.48, near new Hares Canyon State Park

Total Estimated Project Cost:	\$12,000,000
PE:	\$1,888,000
ROW:	\$1,237,000
Construction:	\$9,575,000

PE and ROW will be funded by OTIA III funds and \$2,500,000 will be funded with local funds.

Project Description: Increasing traffic volumes at the Sunset Highway (US 26) and Nehalem Highway (OR 47) junction (Staley's Junction) create undesirable operating conditions which decrease traffic safety. Conditions are expected to deteriorate further in the future with the anticipated development of an Oregon state park approximately five miles north of Staley's Junction.

ODOT, Washington County and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) are working as a partnership to develop and fund the improvements. In order to start construction in 2008, the partnership will have to complete the environmental, land use and public participation requirements, right-of-way acquisition; and plans, specifications and estimates (PS&E).

Project Eligibility: The project was identified and listed as a solution in the adopted 1999 Portland to Cannon Beach Junction Plan. A wide variety of objectives were developed to address the various elements of the corridor's transportation system. The Corridor Plan is consistent with OHP Policy 1G, Action 1G.1. The following are the key themes reflected in the Corridor Strategy objectives.

- Allocation of state resources to highway projects according to the following priorities:
 - (1) Maintenance of the existing facility to ensure that it remains safe and functional, e.g. fixing potholes.

- (2) Preservation of the roadway by investing in roadbed and pavement reconstruction as needed to minimize maintenance costs;
- (3) Transportation system management to optimize existing highway capacity;
- (4) Safety and capacity improvements; and
- (5) Projects that support economic development, particularly recreation and tourism.

The project was listed as Project #018A in ODOT's Portland to Cannon Beach Junction Hwy. 26 Corridor Plan (April 1999) as a long-term (10-20 year) need. Replacement of an existing intersection with an interchange in AF-20 districts is allowed as a Category C project under Article VII: Public Transportation Facilities of the Washington County Community Development Code. As a Category C project, the applicant must submit an alternative analysis report demonstrating that the applicant has evaluated alternative alignments and provided opportunity for citizen input into the selection of the proposed alignment.

The intersection improvement is a recommendation for the 2006-09 STIP by the NW ACT for the D-STIP modernization projects. It was ranked by the ACT as the second highest priority in Region 1. The city of Vernonia and the Counties of Columbia and Washington are very concerned about the traffic conditions with the addition of the state park.

The final project description will be developed during the project refinement planning. Project was scoped by Region 1 for the 2006 -2009 STIP.

Project Prioritization: Project Readiness – This project can begin construction within the 2006-2009 timeframe of the STIP. This project has not gone through the D-STIP and has not completed a FONSI or ROD, It will require assessment for the following:

- Environmental requirements
- Land use requirements
- Applicability of minor improvements and alternative mode solutions

Modernization Projects that Best Support the OHP Policies – Staley's Junction
Modernization project best supports OHP Policies 1A, 1B, 1C, 1F, 1G, 2A, 2F, 3A, 3B, 3C, 4A and 5A.

Leverage and Public Benefit – The Project will leverage the complete construction of the Hare Canyon State Park of approximately \$6.5 million. The State Park will have facilities for day use/hiking, equestrian, group camping (80 sites), and yurt camping. The state park is open for day use/hiking, but in order to develop the overnight uses, Staley's Junction intersection must be improved to safely accommodate the increase in traffic. Washington County and Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) are partners with ODOT in the improvement of the intersection to accommodate the increase in activity at the park. The public benefit is that the park will provide regional and countywide outdoor activities to the Portland metro area that is currently at capacity on peak weekends.

Conditions of Approval: This modernization project to construct a new interchange at Staley's Junction will require an approved Interchange Access Management Plan per the OHP Policy 3C by the OTC.