



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Transportation Commission

Office of the Director, MS 11

355 Capitol St NE

Salem, OR 97301-3871

DATE: August 4, 2016

TO: Oregon Transportation Commission

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FROM: Matthew L. Garrett
Director

SUBJECT: **Agenda D** – Participate in a workshop discussion for the U.S. 97 “Four Phase Strategy”

Requested Action:

Participate in a workshop discussion with members of the Oregon Department of Transportation’s Region 4 staff to review the U.S. 97 “Four Phase Strategy.”

Background:

Region 4 uses a ‘four phase’ investment strategy to serve as a guideline and vision for improving major state highways, particularly U.S. 97. As traffic volumes increase on high speed facilities, access and turn movements at traditional, at-grade intersections become increasingly hazardous. In addition, the potential for serious head-on collisions increases due to lack of non-traversable center median. A system of passing lanes, continuous four-lane highway, grade-separated interchanges, frontage roads and a center median are an effective solution.

Discussion Topics:

In preparation for this meeting, ODOT staff posed the following notes for the Oregon Transportation Commission members to consider as part of the discussion.

1. Interstate 5 Alternative: As Interstate 5 becomes busier and more congested, it is likely various traffic modes will continue to migrate to U.S. 97 in search of a quicker and safer route.
2. Regional Lifeline Route: U.S. 97 is critical in creating a resilient north-south highway corridor to support emergency response and recovery efforts to the most populated areas in the Willamette Valley in the event of a major seismic (or other catastrophic) event.
3. Connecting Freight Corridor: With freight volumes expected to increase 45 percent by 2045, U.S 97 will be increasingly important to help eliminate current freight bottlenecks, accommodate future growth and aid the effective and safe travel for motorists and the freight industry.

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Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – U.S. 97 ‘Four Phase Strategy’
- Attachmetn 2 – Seismic Resiliency on U.S. 97

Copies (w/Attachments) to:

Jerri Bohard	Travis Brouwer	Tom Fuller	Bob Gebhardt
Paul Mather	Bob Bryant	Gary Farnsworth	Della Mosier
Jarod Johnson			