



## US20 COLD SPRINGS CUTOFF RD TO CASCADE MEADOW RANCH RD PROJECT FACT SHEET

Last updated: Fall 2007

**Project Location:** The proposed project is located on US 20 between mile points 95.86 (east/south of Suttle Lake) and 97.47 (west/north of Sisters) in Deschutes County.

### **Purpose and Need:**

There are few passing opportunities available between Suttle Lake and Sisters. In those places where the highway is striped to allow passing, opposing volumes are often high enough that drivers cannot pass. This becomes an issue due to the large volume of traffic as well as the increasing numbers of slow-moving trucks. In the summer months, RV's exacerbate the issue of drivers attempting to pass when it is not safe to do so, even if the highway striping allows. Eventually, frustrated drivers begin to disregard the striping and attempt to pass whenever they find an acceptable gap, disregarding the legality of the maneuver.

The Average Daily Traffic (ADT) along this stretch of the highway is approximately 7,900 vehicles per day, and is predicted to increase to approximately 11,000 vehicles per day within 20 years. In summer months when tourism activity is high, traffic volumes exceed the design capacity of the highway, affecting mobility through the area.

This section of highway is the number one priority for the construction of a passing lane in the Region. Analysis shows that the percentage of time spent following another vehicle is calculated at 86% for the existing two lane section during the design hourly volume. It is predicted that within a passing lane for this section, the time spent following another vehicle would be reduced to 62%. By constructing a passing lane, the Level of Service (LOS) within the project limits would go from an 'E' to a 'C' for a 5 mile segment of the highway.

### **Goals and Objectives:**

Because US 20/OR126 from mile post (MP) 96 to 98 traverses the Deschutes National Forest, ODOT is coordinating with the United States Forest Service (USFS) to minimize impacts to USFS resources and ensure compliance with applicable USFS plans.

The project goals and objectives are as follows:

- Improve traffic safety and mobility
- Minimize tree removal
- Minimize utility conflicts
- Minimize traffic disruptions during construction

### **Environmental and Regulatory Constraints:**

This project was originally classified as a Category 3 (requiring an Environmental Assessment), but has been reclassified as a Category 2 (excluded from NEPA) for the following reasons:

- The project will be constructed entirely within the existing ODOT Special Use Permit area within the Deschutes National Forest in Deschutes County. No additional land use permits or right-of-way would be acquired.
- The area of disturbance to vegetated areas is 3.5 acres which is below 5 acres, which is the US Forest Service's approximate threshold for requiring an Environmental Assessment.
- Special status species and critical habitat will not be impacted.

The archaeological and historical reconnaissance surveys of the project area did not identify any prehistoric, historic archaeological or other historic resources that would be affected by the project.

The project will have no effect on species protected under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). No impacts to other special status plants or animals, or their critical habitat, are anticipated as a result of project construction.

**Solution:**

Passing Lane Section (MP 96.31 to MP 97.47)

The project constructed a one-mile westbound passing lane section between the above mile points. The passing lane was developed entirely between the road approaches on each end of the section, to ensure that traffic does not attempt to use the passing lane as a center turn lane for these road approaches.

Westbound Left Turn refuge (MP95.86 to MP96.31)

The project constructed a westbound center turn refuge lane for Cold Springs Cutoff Road.

**Project Schedule:**

Begin final design: November 2005  
Bid/Let date: September 2006  
Construction: Summer 2007

**Project Budget:** \$2.8 million

## US20: COLD SPRINGS CUTOFF ROAD TO CASCADE MEADOW RANCH ROAD

SANTIAM HIGHWAY

DESCHUTES COUNTY  
NOVEMBER 2006

**METOLIUS JUNCTION GRAVEL PIT  
MANDATORY DISPOSAL SITE  
(M.P. 90.91)**

**END OF PROJECT**  
STA. "S" 238+85 (M.P. 95.86)

**BEGINNING OF PROJECT**  
STA. "S" 153+84 (M.P. 97.47)

