

U.S. 97 @ Wickiup Junction (La Pine)

Last updated: February 16, 2016

Project Components:

- Realign U.S. 97 to the east of its current location and build a railroad overpass to the south of the existing at-grade crossing.
- Connect Burgess Road to the realigned U.S. 97.

Why this Project is needed

U.S. 97 is a critical part of the State's transportation system, and is classified as an expressway in the project area. Keeping roads in good condition and providing for safe travel are critical parts of the Oregon Department of Transportation's mission.

The at-grade railway/highway crossing on U.S. 97 at Wickiup Junction is the only remaining at-grade crossing on U.S. 97 in Oregon. Drivers on U.S. 97 who are not familiar with the area do not anticipate stopping for trains, nor do they anticipate school buses and vehicles carrying hazardous materials that

are required to stop at railroad crossings regardless of whether a train is approaching or not. These create an extremely unsafe situation on the highway. This safety problem forces local school buses to avoid this section of the highway and to travel out of their way to complete routes.

Currently, an average of 10-12 trains pass through Wickiup Junction each day. This volume is expected to increase over time. Additionally, the traffic volume through the project area is approximately 10,000 vehicles pass per day and is projected to grow to 13,000 by 2032. The volume on Burgess Road east of Huntington Road is anticipated to increase as well. This increase in traffic intensifies the need to improve safety on U.S. 97 at the railroad crossing and at Burgess Road.

How ODOT proposes to solve these problems

ODOT partnered with Deschutes County and the City of La Pine to develop a solution for the safety problem at the BNSF/U.S. 97 railroad crossing at Wickiup Junction. After exploring alternatives, the selected near-term solution is to realign U.S. 97 to the east of its current location and build a railroad overpass just south of the at-grade crossing. New connections will be built for Burgess Road to the realigned U.S. 97 (see the project design map attached).

In developing this solution, a number of goals and objectives identified by the agencies and the public were considered. These include:

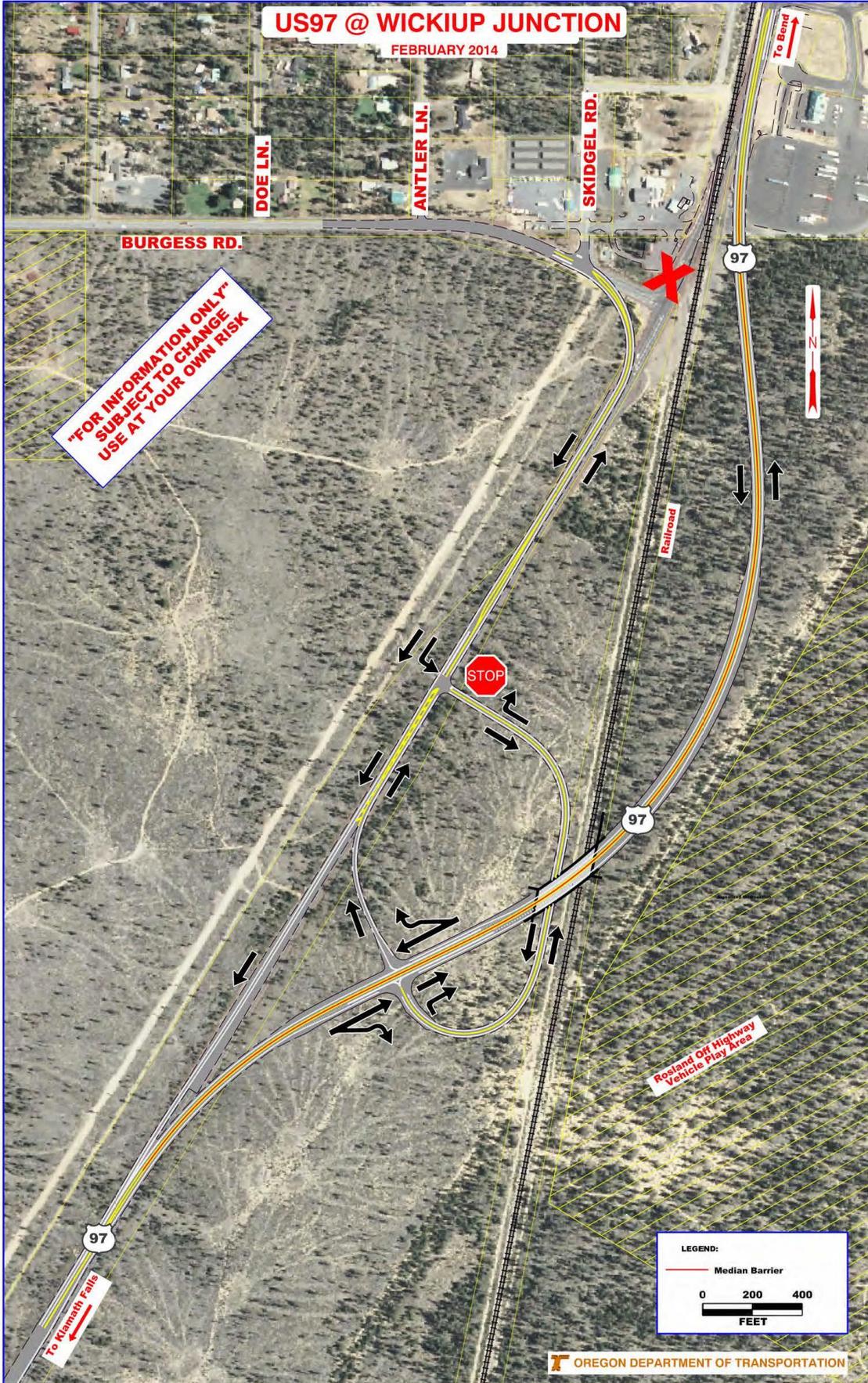
- Provide a transportation solution that safely accommodates projected travel demands for all users and modes 20 years into the future.
- Maintain mobility and minimize traffic delays for U.S. 97.
- Minimize costs and maximize project value (cost-effective solution).
- Provide safe and reasonable access to area communities, Wickiup Junction businesses, and recreational destinations while minimizing out-of-direction travel.



The at-grade railway crossing on U.S. 97 at Wickiup Junction, La Pine, Oregon.

US97 @ WICKIUP JUNCTION

FEBRUARY 2014



**"FOR INFORMATION ONLY"
SUBJECT TO CHANGE
USE AT YOUR OWN RISK**

**Rosland Off Highway
Vehicle Play Area**

LEGEND:

- Median Barrier

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FEET