Project Description
This project aims to improve US 97 at Cooley Road with a design forward compatible with the proposed US 97 Bend North Corridor project.

Background
US 97 is a strategic north-south highway that runs through the central portion of Oregon and complements the I-5 corridor. It is designated as a statewide facility and freight route on the National Highway System, and as an expressway from the south end of the City of Redmond through Bend. US 97 is a critical link in moving goods and people through Central Oregon.

In the Bend area, US 97 is used as a route for local residents to travel to and from home and work and is a connection to area shopping, dining, businesses, schools and recreation. Bend and Central Oregon have also experienced significant population growth over the past decade. Bend’s population growth, in combination with US 97 serving as a regional facility, has led to an increase in traffic congestion and delay, disruptions in traffic flow, and an increase in the severity of vehicular crashes along US 97.

In 2014, the Oregon Department of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration completed an Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate alternatives to improve the safety and mobility of US 97 within an approximate six-mile corridor in Bend between the Deschutes Market Road/Tumalo Junction interchange and Empire Avenue (figure 1). This study looked at design solutions to address congestion, traffic flow, and safety on this highway corridor and recommended a preferred alternative for the Bend North Corridor (Figure 3).

Specifically, the final Environmental Impact Statement identified improvements for the US 97/Cooley Road intersection (Figure 2). This project aims to reduce delay, congestion, and the number and severity of crashes at this intersection by designing solutions that can be completed as a mid-term phase of the larger US 97 Bend North Corridor project (Figure 3).
Estimated Cost & Timeline
Preliminary engineering is planned to begin in late Spring 2018. This project is scheduled for construction in 2025 and is estimated to cost roughly $50 million, funded from highway bond proceeds associated with Oregon House Bill 2017 (Keep Oregon Moving). The US97 @ Cooley project will receive funding in relative proportion to revenues collected from 2018 through 2025 by House Bill 2017. Additional revenue is anticipated to allow for initiation of right-of-way acquisitions by 2019 and construction in 2025.

Next Steps & Public Involvement
ODOT will work with property owners, stakeholder groups and the general public to collaborate on the planning, design and construction of US 97 and Cooley Road mid-term improvements. Currently, work is underway to transition the project from Environmental Impact Statement phase to start the preliminary engineering phase, beginning in late Spring 2018.

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For additional information on this and other projects, visit ODOT’s project webpage at:  
www.oregon.gov/ODOT/Projects/Pages/default.aspx