U.S. 97/U.S. 20 Bend North Corridor

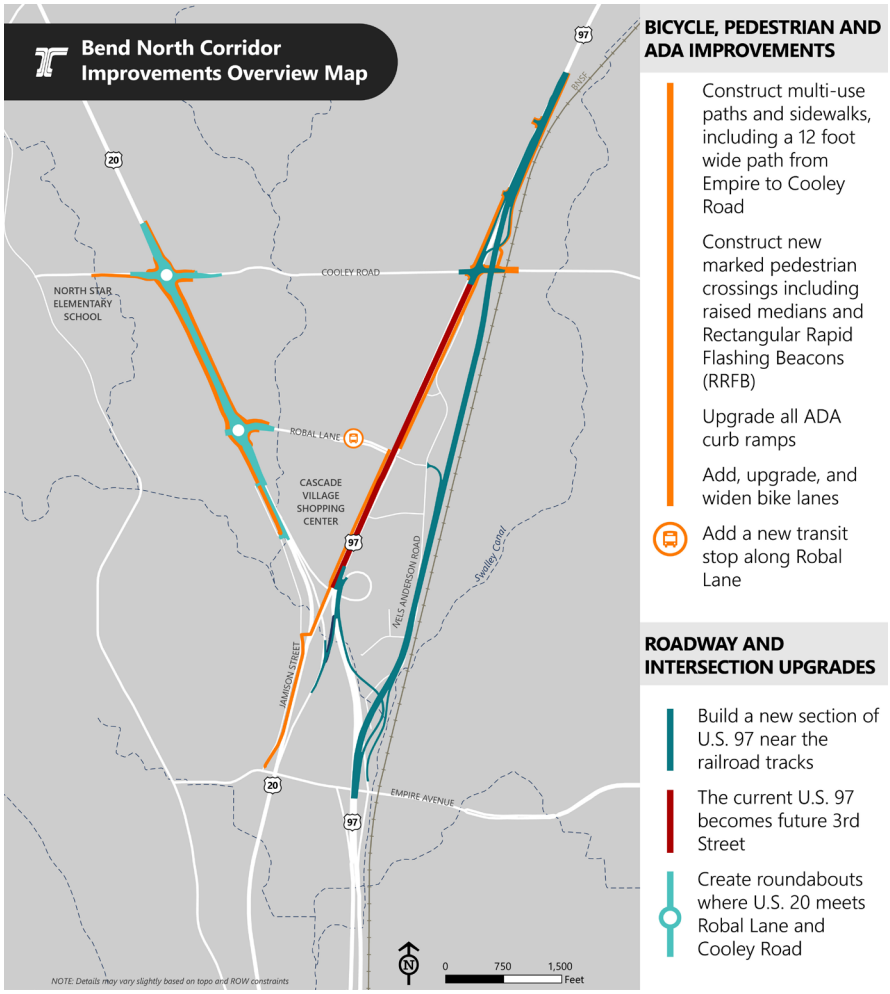
Project Update — Fall 2023

1 Introduction

The north end of Bend has seen significant increase in traffic and congestion in recent years that has affected all road users.

In partnership with the City of Bend, ODOT will introduce improvements on U.S. 97 and U.S. 20 in effort to:

- Enhance safety and mobility for people walking and biking
- Reduce traffic congestion and emissions
- Improve neighborhood access and quality of life
- Reduce traffic volumes and vehicle speeds at busy intersections
- Increase the movement of goods
- Improve travel times



2 U.S. 20 Corridor

Crews will construct roundabouts at Robal Lane and Cooley Road, with a median barrier between the two roundabouts. Shared-use paths will run between the roundabouts and connect to Old Bend Redmond Highway. Multiple enhanced crossings will be built along the corridor, where flashing lights will alert drivers that someone may be crossing the road. Intelligent transportation systems will be installed, including a Variable Message Sign for travelers entering Bend. These signs are helpful to display weather and emergency alerts.

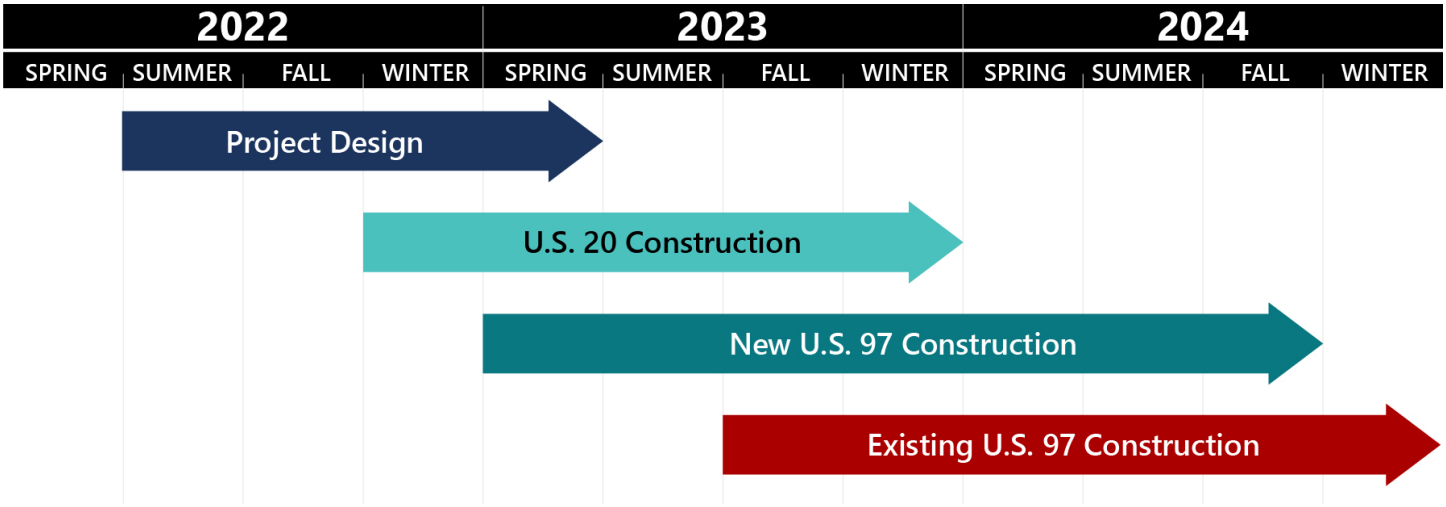
The resulting corridor will provide significant improvements in mobility and accessibility for all. It will also reduce congestion and emissions, improve travel times, and reduce crashes.

3 U.S. 97 Corridor

Along this corridor, the current U.S. 97 route will be realigned farther east, closer to the railroad tracks. With this realignment, the expressway traffic will not go through any traffic lights, significantly improving travel times. As part of the realignment, a shared-use path will be constructed between NE Empire Avenue and the northern end of the project. The existing U.S. 97 will become a business route and extension of the current 3rd Street. It will be updated with ADA compliant curb ramps, new pavement, and striping.

4 Cost and Schedule

The project is funded by a federal infrastructure (INFRA) grant—which provides $60.4 million—with an additional $73 million from ODOT, local and private sources, totaling more than $150 million in project funds.



5 Construction

Kiewit Infrastructure West is the design-build contractor for this project. They are partnering with ODOT staff and support a team led by STV Inc. to expedite design and construction. This project is using a design-build approach, where the contracting team both designs and constructs the project. Currently, the team is initiating construction-related traffic changes along U.S. 97. Construction along U.S. 20, including the roundabouts at Cooley Road and Robal Lane, is complete.

We recognize that this work will impact the environment and everyone who travels through and uses this area. We plan to use innovative and effective ways to manage and minimize any adverse impacts this work may cause. Business and local street access will remain open during construction. Our website will be updated weekly with construction impact updates.

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To learn more about the U.S. 97 Bend North Corridor Project, please visit the project website at:
https://www.oregon.gov/odot/projects/pages/project-details.aspx?project=21229