**Project goals**

- Provide enhanced recreation opportunities that support alternative modes of transportation.
- Enable non-motorized travelers to safely access amenities associated with the Deschutes National Forest from the City of Bend and Sunriver.
- Increase the economic viability of the Sunriver and Bend communities by expanding the quality and variety of active, outdoor recreation amenities available in the region.

**Why the project is needed**

The City of Bend and community of Sunriver are growing rapidly, increasing travel demands and environmental impacts on the Deschutes National Forest, Newberry National Volcanic Monument and surrounding area. Currently, there is no safe, accessible way for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel between Bend and Lava Butte.

A 2015 study conducted by the Deschutes National Forest cited the need to enhance bicycle and other alternative transportation connections from Bend to key destinations, and proposes paved bike and pedestrian paths between Bend, Sunriver, Lava Lands Visitor Center and Lava Land Cave. Recent investments have focused on these connections between Bend and the new Cascade Lakes Welcome Station, including completion of the Haul Trail and Benham Falls Day Use area. Despite these improvements, the Sunriver community lacks pedestrian and bicycle connections to Bend and US 97 corridors. This trail system would create new connections for bicyclists and pedestrians between these destinations.

**What is planned**

ODOT, in partnership with the Deschutes National Forest, is completing the planning and preliminary design for a paved multi-use path along the US 97 corridor that connects the City of Bend with the Lava Lands Visitor Center. The proposed path will be ADA-compliant and extend from Baker/Knott Road on the south end of Bend to Lava Butte Visitor Center near the northern Cottonwood Road underpass.

ODOT is currently partnering with the Deschutes National Forest on the environmental assessment associated with a path and considering design alternatives. ODOT will work with property owners, stakeholder groups and the general public to collaborate on the planning, design and construction of the project.

**Timeline**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Development</th>
<th>2019 - 2021</th>
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<tr>
<td>Construction</td>
<td>Phased beginning 2022</td>
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**Estimated Cost**

Approximately $6 million

**Contacts**

Chris Cheng, Active Transportation Liaison | 541-388-6429 | Chris.Cheng@odot.state.or.us
Abbey Driscoll, Project Manager | 541-388-6064 | Abbey.Driscoll@odot.state.or.us