

# Skyliners Road Improvement Project

## PROJECT UPDATE

Summer 2012



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Highway Administration



Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
Federal Highway Administration



Deschutes National Forest



Deschutes County



### What's in this newsletter

- Phils Trailhead improvements
- What's been going on this summer
- Response to public comments
- Your input is needed!

### What is the Skyliners Road Improvement Project?

Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), in cooperation with Deschutes County and the Deschutes National Forest, is proposing to reconstruct Skyliners Road to address the deteriorating roadway surface and the existing mix of bicycle and motorist use. The Skyliners Road Improvement Project (Project) starts at the western city limits of Bend and extends westerly for approximately 8.4 miles to the junction with Forest Service Road 4603.

The Project is needed to increase safety for roadway users and to reduce maintenance costs.

In addition to roadway improvements, the parking area at **Phil's Trailhead** will be redesigned both to increase the amount of parking and to reduce the environmental resource damage that results from current parking practices.

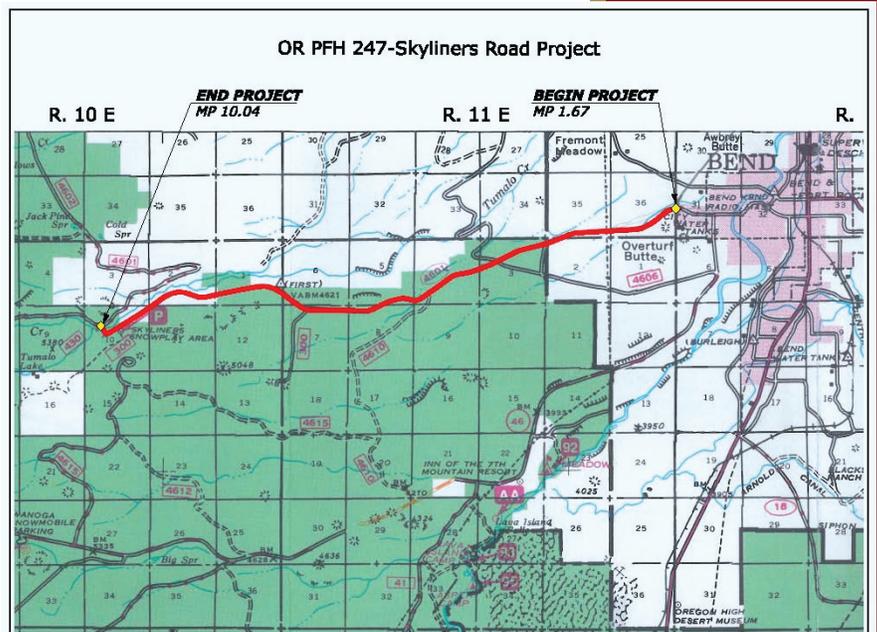
### What has been going on this summer?

FHWA is currently developing the preliminary design for proposed improvements and environmental clearances have been obtained for the Project. Final design is expected by Fall 2012 and Deschutes County is expected to start easement acquisition at that time. Staking of areas for vegetation clearing was completed in the late spring/early summer and County representatives have been reviewing these clearing limits with landowners and the general public.

### What is the construction schedule?

Road reconstruction and widening is expected to begin in Spring 2013 and extend to Winter 2015. It will generally take place during the May - October timeframe, as weather conditions permit. This schedule could change, however, depending on the timing of the City of Bend's water line construction project that will parallel a portion of Skyliners Road. To reduce cost, avoid repaving, and minimize disruption to the public, construction of the water line project is planned to precede the road improvement project. The water line construction will be accompanied by temporary surface paving that will be replaced with more permanent paving as part of the road improvement project. Construction of the water line is pending completion of the environmental review process for that project, which is expected in September 2012. A more defined schedule for the road improvement project will be determined at that time.

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# PROJECT UPDATE (continued)

## Your input is needed!

FHWA intends to preclude traffic delays during an hour interval in the mornings and afternoons to accommodate school bus traffic. Once school is out for the summer, these intervals can be shifted to accommodate commuter traffic. Please tell us your preference of when these delay-free intervals should occur.

### Morning:

- 7:00-8:00 am
- 7:30-8:30 am
- 8:00-9:00 am
- Other (please specify)

### Evening:

- 4:00-5:00 pm
- 4:30-5:30 pm
- 5:00-6:00 pm
- Other (please specify)

Let us know what you think by emailing Jennifer Corwin at [Jennifer.Corwin@dot.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Corwin@dot.gov)



## What are responses to recent public questions and comments?

In addition to consulting with property owners and interested parties regarding clearing limits, the County's Road Department and FHWA have been responding to questions and comments from a June 2012 meeting of homeowners along Skyliners Road. One of the issues raised is reducing the width of or eliminating bike lanes through the residential subdivision near the western end of the Project area. Due to the high number of cyclists using Skyliners Road, designated 6-foot bike lanes will be included for the full length of the Project. This addresses a stated purpose of the Project to improve safety for road users by reducing conflicts between bicyclists and motorists. Mixing bikes with traffic in this area of numerous driveways could create safety issues. The proposed design of bicycle lanes has been supported by the Bend Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

Another issue is reducing traffic speeds through the residential subdivision. While the most effective means of reducing traffic speeds is increasing enforcement, FHWA has incorporated a number of design elements in an effort to encourage slower speeds. The typical road section has been modified to narrow the travel lane width to 10 feet within that portion of the road where the designated speed is 25 mph. Traffic islands comprised of channelizing posts and pavement markings will also be incorporated at the boundaries of the residential area. In addition, appropriate signing will be used to inform drivers of reduced speeds through this area.

Some of the residents requested that an additional traffic island be located near the Morrison property at Milepost 8. Because this portion of the road is in a rural area with higher travel speeds, placing an island at this location would require high speed maneuvers, creating an unsafe driving condition. As a result, an island will not be included at this location.

Ensuring that roadway shoulders are wide enough to accommodate parking in the residential area is also identified as a key issue. The Project will retain the existing widened shoulders and residential parking. However, head-in parking will be discouraged through striping for parallel parking.

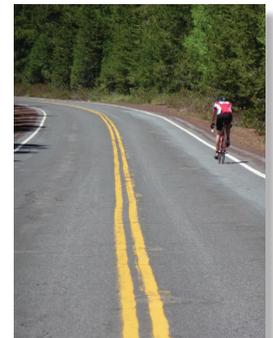
## What types of traffic control will be needed?

At this preliminary stage, the level of traffic control needed is not clear. While daytime road closures will be avoided, regularly scheduled delays (e.g. 20-30 minutes) are likely. Additional public outreach will occur as the designs for both the pipeline and roadway projects progress and traffic control needs become more evident.

## What types of construction impacts can be expected? How will they be minimized?

During construction, access to residences and National Forest trailheads will be available but may be delayed. Skyliners Road will not be available at any time over the next three years for organized recreation events, such as bicycle races.

Noise impacts will be mitigated through best practices typically employed by the County for road construction projects. In addition, a truck turnaround area will be established on an existing pullout a couple of miles east of the subdivision, to reduce the need for trucks to travel through the subdivision to turn trucks around at the sno-park area.



To reduce the length of the construction timeframe, nighttime construction may be an option, depending on the ability to minimize effects to landowners and wildlife.

## Where can up-to-date project information be obtained?

Regular project updates will be posted on the Project website at [www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or/skyliners](http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or/skyliners) and on the Deschutes County Road Department website at [www.deschutes.org/Road/Skyliners-Road](http://www.deschutes.org/Road/Skyliners-Road). Public notices and newsletters will also be periodically used to provide updated information.

Additional information about this Project can be obtained by contacting Mike Odom, Project Manager, at [Mike.odom@dot.gov](mailto:Mike.odom@dot.gov) or Jennifer Corwin, Environmental Protection Specialist, Western Federal Lands Highway Division, 610 East 5th Street, Vancouver, WA 98661.