

Skyliners Road Improvement Project

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE REPORT

July 2011



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration

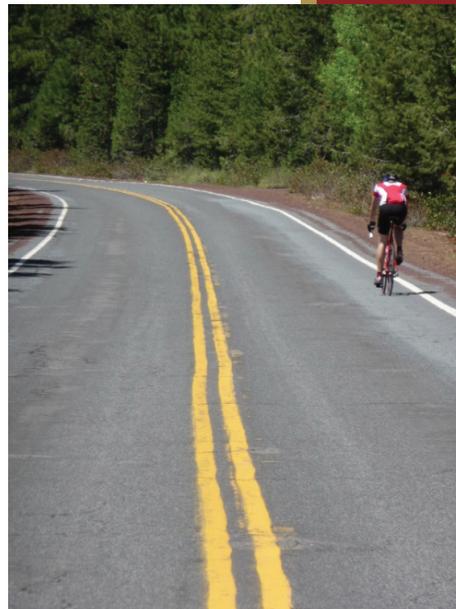


Western Federal Lands Highway Division
Federal Highway Administration



Thank you to all who attended the June 14 Public Open House and who have submitted comments on the Skyliners Road Improvement Project. Sponsored by the Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in cooperation with Deschutes National Forest, Deschutes County, and the City of Bend, the purpose of the open house was to explain the proposed project and to gather public input and concerns. This report summarizes the comments received and questions raised, as well as other input received. (Comments and questions are in italics, with FHWA responses in plain text.)

- *Concerns about safety problems associated with the S curve* – FHWA is investigating improving the signage and correcting the superelevation at this location to address safety concerns.
- *Questions about the schedule for construction* – Until environmental clearances are obtained in early 2012 and a contract is awarded, the construction schedule is tentative. FHWA is considering beginning clearing of roadside vegetation in 2012, with road construction extending from 2013 through 2014.
- *Both support for and concerns about the proposed thinning of roadside vegetation.* Concerns have centered on the width of the clear zone – In accordance with minimum road design and safety standards, FHWA is proposing to clear vegetation to approximately 15 feet from the existing edge of pavement.
- *Questions about how bike lanes will be maintained* – Periodic maintenance will be included in the County Road Department's road maintenance schedule; sweeping and other maintenance will also occur when special needs arise, such as biking events or when excessive debris is present.



Additional public outreach and input opportunities will be provided in the form of public notices, newsletters, and web site information.

For more information about this Project, please refer to the project web site at www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or/skyliners/ or contact Mike Odom, Project Manager, at Mike.odom@dot.gov.

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE REPORT (continued)

- *Questions about how traffic speeds through the residential area will be controlled* – FHWA is exploring a variety of methods to slow motorists traveling through the residential area. Options being considered include narrowing the roadway prism and signage.
- *Questions about coordination with the City of Bend's Surface Water Improvement Project* – FHWA, the City of Bend and Deschutes County are working to coordinate the two projects. If necessary, road improvements will be delayed to avoid having to redo the road improvements.
- *Questions about the potential to widen the uphill shoulder to 8 feet to accommodate bicyclists and about the extent of the bike lane* – The proposed six-foot shoulders are in accordance with state and county bicycle and pedestrian design standards. There is no data demonstrating that eight-foot shoulders provide safety benefits that warrant the expenditure of additional tax dollars to construct the additional width. A bike lane will be provided for the entire length of the improvement project, though the width may narrow slightly through the residential area at the western end of the project.
- *Concerns about how parking at River Road will be accommodated* – Parallel parking restricted to residents' use will be considered in lieu of angled parking.

From comment forms returned by open house participants and other input we've received, additional things that we've heard include:

- *The need for this project at this time has been adequately explained.*
- *Support for the designation of 6-foot bike lanes adjacent to the motor vehicle travel lanes in each travel direction.*
- *Concerns about conflicts among various users of the road (autos, bicycles and rollerskiers).*



- *Concerns about construction impacts in the residential area.*
- *A variety of techniques should be used to keep people informed and involved as this project proceeds.*

Finally, we appreciate all the positive comments about our undertaking these improvements and about our efforts to keep the community informed.
