

Skyliners Road Improvement Project

PROJECT UPDATE

March 2012



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway
Administration



Western Federal Lands Highway Division
Federal Highway Administration



What is the Skyliners Road Improvement Project?

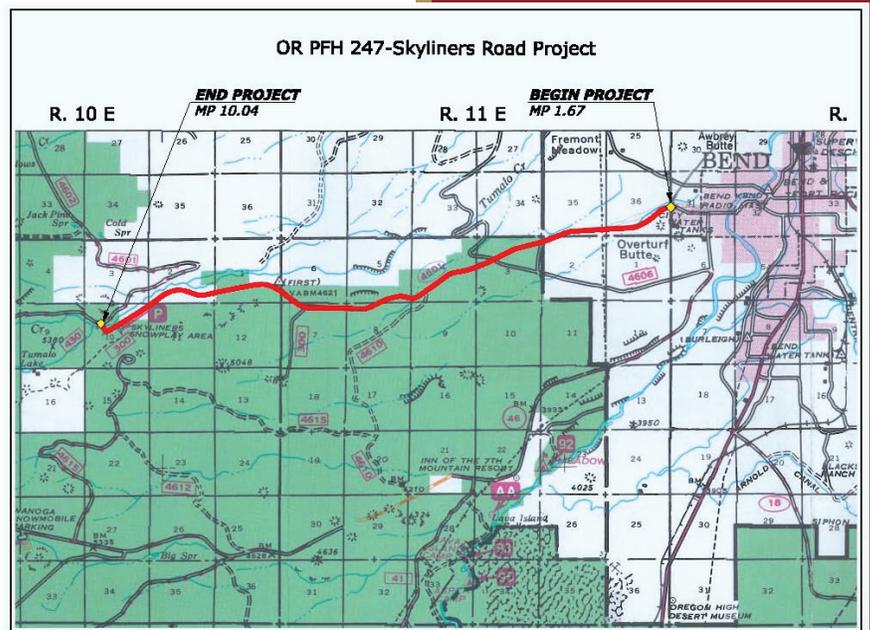
Western Federal Lands Highway Division (WFL) of the Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with Deschutes County and the Deschutes National Forest, is proposing to reconstruct Skyliners Road to address the deteriorating roadway surface and the existing mix of bicycle and motorist use. The Skyliners 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. The road pavement is deteriorating and requires frequent maintenance. In some areas, the pavement edge is breaking up, resulting in increased maintenance costs and leaving no paved shoulder for bicycles and pedestrians. Trees close to the roadway create shady areas that can limit visibility and result in icy conditions during the winter months. These conditions have led to increasing concerns about the potential for bicyclist, pedestrian, and motorist accidents.

What is the project schedule?

Presently, the roadway construction schedule depends on the timing of the City of Bend's water line construction project which proposes to place a portion of the waterline under the southern shoulder of Skyliners Road. To reduce cost, avoid repaving, and minimize disruption to the public, construction of the water line project is currently planned to precede the road improvement project. The water line construction will be accompanied by temporary surface paving that will be replaced with a permanent pavement structure as part of the road improvement project.

With the completion of environmental clearances and assuming all parties agree to a preferred course of action in spring 2012, the final design would be completed by August 2013. Staking of clearing limits is likely to occur between April and May 2012 and ground disturbing activities are tentatively scheduled to occur in 2013 and 2014. These activities would generally take place during the May-October timeframe, weather permitting.



PROJECT UPDATE (continued)

What types of traffic control will be needed?

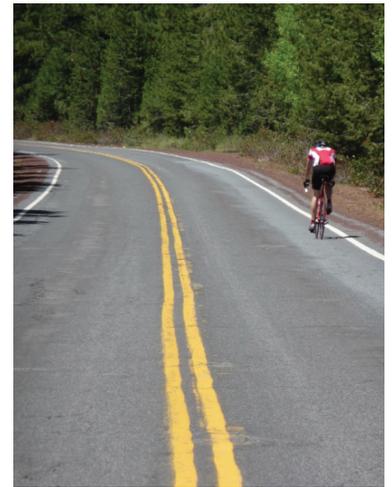
At this preliminary stage, the level of traffic control needed is not clear. While daytime road closures will be avoided, regularly scheduled delays (e.g. 30 minutes) are likely. Additional public outreach will occur as the designs for both the pipeline and roadway projects progress and traffic control 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 and the road will not be available at any time during construction 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 temporary turnaround for trucks is being proposed east of the residential subdivision to reduce construction vehicle noise and dust impacts.

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 and on the Deschutes County Road Department website at www.deschutes.org/Road/Skyliners-Road. Public notices and newsletters will also be periodically used to provide updated information.

How do I obtain additional information about this project? About the City of Bend's project?

For more information about this Project, please refer to the Project website at the address above or contact Mike Odom, Project Manager, at Mike.odom@dot.gov. If you have written comments, please submit them to: Jennifer Corwin, Environmental Protection Specialist, Western Federal Lands Highway Division, 610 East 5th Street, Vancouver, WA 98661.

