

# Skyliners Road Improvement Project

## FACT SHEET

May 2011



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
Federal Highway  
Administration



Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
Federal Highway Administration



Deschutes  
National  
Forest



Deschutes County



## PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Tuesday, June 14, 2011  
6:00 – 8:00 pm

William E. Miller Elementary School (Gym)  
300 NW Crosby Drive; Bend, OR 97701

- To explain the proposed project
- To obtain input on the project's design

### *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. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2013.

### *Why are improvements needed?*

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 improvements are proposed?*

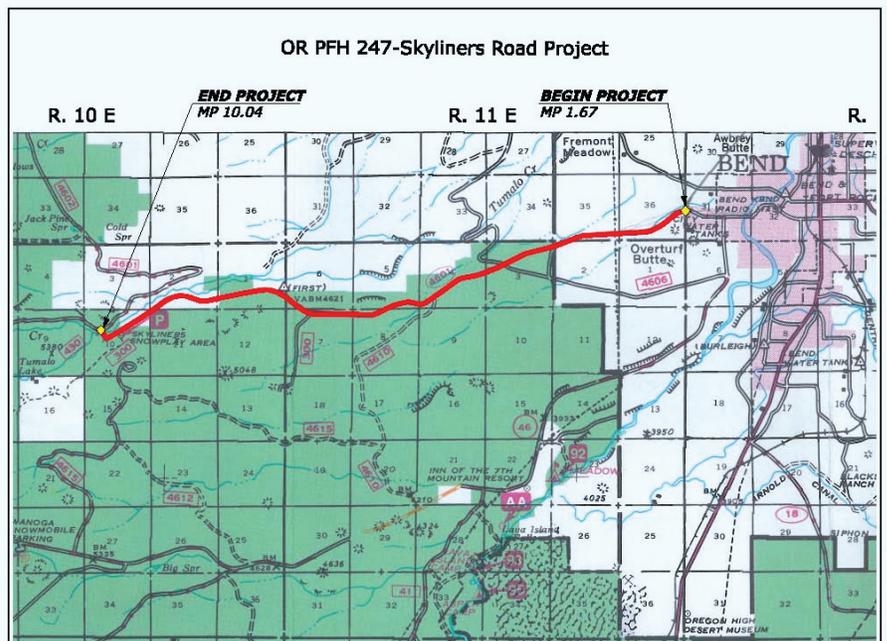
To increase safety for all types of traffic using the road and to reduce maintenance requirements, WFL proposes to:

- Construct a durable pavement surface requiring minimal maintenance for up to 20 years;
- Reconstruct and widen the roadway to provide wider shoulders that can better accommodate bicycles;
- Make minor adjustments in the road alignment; and
- Thin existing roadside vegetation to create a 12-20 foot clear zone between the roadway and adjacent forest cover on publicly-owned land.

### *How are these improvements being coordinated with other projects in the area?*

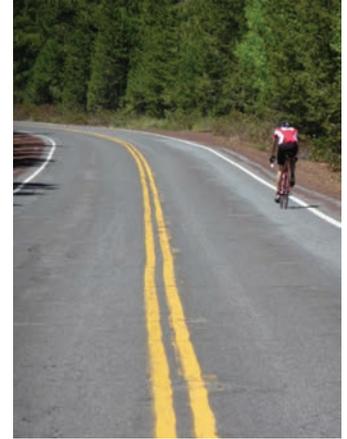
The Skyliners Road Improvement Project is being coordinated with the City of Bend's Surface Water Improvement Project and with improvements proposed by the Deschutes National Forest to Phil's Trailhead.

The City of Bend owns and operates an existing surface water supply system that includes a treatment facility at the City's Outback reservoir site and two raw water pipelines that run from the Bridge Creek intake facility to the Outback



## FACT SHEET (continued)

site. These pipelines are generally parallel to Forest Road 4603 and Skyliners Road and are located mostly on Forest Service land. The City plans to build a new treatment plant, replace the existing pipelines with a new single pipeline, and possibly construct a new hydroelectric generation facility at the Outback site with associated improvements at the intake facility. The City's preferred new route for the new pipeline involves using the the Skyliners Road prism. Work on the pipeline will be coordinated with the Project to ensure construction avoids damage to the newly reconstructed road.



WFL is also coordinating with the Deschutes National Forest on proposed improvements to Phil's Trailhead which is accessed by Skyliners Road. Deschutes National Forest is proposing to re-design the Phil's Trailhead to provide a high-quality recreation site to primarily serve existing trail users in the area.

### *When will construction occur?*

Skyliners Road reconstruction and widening is currently scheduled to begin in Spring 2013, with completion potentially extending to Winter 2014. Due to weather constraints, it is unlikely that all improvements can be completed within one construction season.

### *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. Nighttime construction may be an option, depending on the ability to minimize effects to landowners and wildlife. Additional public outreach will occur as the designs for both the pipeline and roadway projects progress and traffic control needs become more evident.

### *What is occurring between now and the start of construction in 2013?*

WFL is currently developing the preliminary design for proposed improvements, as well as the environmental documentation required to obtain permits for the Project. Environmental clearances are expected by Spring 2012, with final design by Fall 2012.

### *What public outreach opportunities are being provided?*

In addition to a Public Open House on June 14, regular project updates will be available through a Project web site. Additional public outreach and input opportunities will be provided before the completion of the design in the Fall of 2012. Public outreach will continue in the form of public notices, newsletters, and web site information during project construction.



### *How do I obtain additional information?*

For more information about this Project, please refer to the Project website at [www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or/skyliners/](http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/or/skyliners/), or contact Mike Odom, Project Manager, at 360-619-7568 or [Mike.odom@dot.gov](mailto: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.