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Project Website: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/MtHood/project_wildwood.shtml

U.S. 26 Safety Project Receives Federal Approval

The Oregon Department of Transportation has received Federal Highway Administration approval on the Revised Environmental Assessment (REA) for the U.S. 26 (Mt. Hood Highway) Wildwood to Wemme Project.

The completion of this document is required on all major transportation projects as part of the National Environmental Protection Act. The REA describes the selected alternative for the project, which is the "widen north" option. ODOT can now move the project into final design.

Project Details

In the section of U.S. 26 between mileposts 38.75 and 40.01, the highway narrows to four lanes with no center median. There are approximately 40 driveways and accesses along this 1.26-mile section, creating a safety hazard for motorists attempting to make left turns onto or off of the highway. Between 2000 and 2004, 13 crashes were reported in the project limits. The \$5.6 million safety project will widen the east/west running highway to the north. The project will construct a center left turn median lane, improve drainage and widen the shoulder/bicycle lanes. When complete, this section of highway will feature four 12-foot travel lanes, a 14-foot center median lane and two 8- to 10-foot shoulder/bicycle lanes.

The recommended project option was selected from four design alternatives and a no-build option that were presented to the public at an open house in September 2005. This project is slated for construction in 2008.

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Revised Environmental Assessment Documents

The REA is available for review on the ODOT Web site. This is the updated, final version that was submitted to the Federal Highway Administration following public comment on the Draft REA in fall 2006. This version includes public comments and ODOT responses. To download the REA document as a PDF file, visit:

http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/Region1/MtHood/project_wildwood.shtml

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