



Lava Lands Regional Trail System Concept

Last updated: June 7, 2016

Project goals

- Enable non-motorized travelers to safely access amenities associated with the Deschutes National Forest from the City of Bend and Sunriver.
- Provide enhanced recreation opportunities that support alternative modes of transportation.
- Increase the economic viability of the Sunriver and Bend communities by expanding the quality and variety of active, outdoor recreation amenities available in the region.

Why the project is needed

The City of Bend and community of Sunriver are growing rapidly, increasing travel demands and environmental impacts on the Deschutes National Forest, Newberry National Volcanic Monument and surrounding area. Currently, there is no safe, accessible way for pedestrians and bicyclists to travel between Bend and Lava Butte, or between Bend and the new Cascade Lakes Welcome Station, Benham Falls Day Use area, and destinations along Conklin Road. Similarly, the Sunriver community lacks pedestrian and bicycle connections to Bend and destinations along the Conklin Road and U.S. 97 corridors. A 2009 study conducted by the Interagency Transportation Assistance Group, and supported by the follow-up Deschutes National Forest Alternative Transportation Feasibility Study – cited the need to enhance bicycle and other alternative transportation connections from Bend to key destinations, and proposes paved bike and pedestrian paths between Bend, Sunriver, Lava Lands Visitor Center and Lava Land Cave. This trail system will create new connections for bicyclists and pedestrians between these destinations.

What is proposed

- Complete the Haul Trail connecting the City of Bend to the Cascade Lakes Welcome Station by constructing a new undercrossing of Cascade Lakes Scenic Byway at Rimrock Trailhead, paving existing Haul Trail gaps (Welcome Station undercrossing – Mammoth Drive), and reconstructing failing Trail segments (Mt Washington Drive – SW Shevlin-Hixon Drive).
- Construct a paved multi-use path along the U.S. 97 corridor that connects the City of Bend with the Lava Lands Visitor Center in the Newberry National Volcanic Monument, Benham East Day Use recreation area, and the community of Sunriver. The proposed path will be ADA-compliant and extend from Baker/Knott Road on the south end of Bend to Lava Butte Visitor Center near the northern Cottonwood Road underpass.
- Provide non-motorized connections between Cascade Lakes Welcome Station and Sunriver by constructing bicycle facilities along the Conklin Road corridor and improving connections to trailheads.
- Improve pedestrian and bicycle routes in the City of Bend to complete connections between the future U.S. 97 multi-use path and the Haul Trail at SW Reed Market Road.

ODOT will work with property owners, stakeholder groups and the general public to collaborate on the planning, design and construction of this trail system concept.

Timeline:

Project Development	2016 – 2017
Construction (currently not funded)	Phased beginning 2017 (not yet funded)

Contacts

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