



## Project Planning Continues . . .

**W**ork on the North Umpqua Highway Environmental Assessment has continued through 2005 and into 2006, with ongoing technical services, environmental studies and evaluations and public involvement.

The scope of the proposed project is to reconstruct and widen a 14.4-mile section of the North Umpqua Highway. All build alternatives currently under consideration include plans for the following:

- Correction of alignment deficiencies
- Installation and replacement of guardrail and bridge rail
- Construction of chain installation areas and left turn lanes
- Construction of paved shoulders, and revegetation

The proposed project planning and design will be conducted in four main phases that are proposed to occur between approximately June 2004 and September 2010.

**Phase 1 - Location Design Phase:** begins the analysis of project alternatives based on Social, Economic and Environmental (SEE) impacts, utilization of data from environmental and engineering studies and surveys.

**Phase 2 - NEPA Documentation and Preliminary Design Phase:** the NEPA document will be developed, public involvement will begin, the preferred alternative will be analyzed and refined, potential environmental impacts will be quantified, and mitigation of impacts will be identified.

**Phase 3 - Final Environmental Documentation Phase:** the NEPA document will be finalized and a decision document that identifies the chosen alternative and rationale for the decision will be prepared.

**Phase 4 - Design and Construction:** design of the preferred alternative will be completed and construction documents prepared for contract advertisement, bidding, and award.

We have completed Phase 1 for this project and are now beginning Phase 2.

### CHECKLIST

FHWA has completed a project checklist document that describes the project's purpose and need, the alternatives being considered, and the project impacts. FHWA will be holding a public open house to present information about the project and like to hear from you.

The open house will be an informal setting for one-to-one exchanges between citizens and public officials. Representatives from FHWA, the Oregon Department of Transportation, and the US Forest Service will be available to discuss



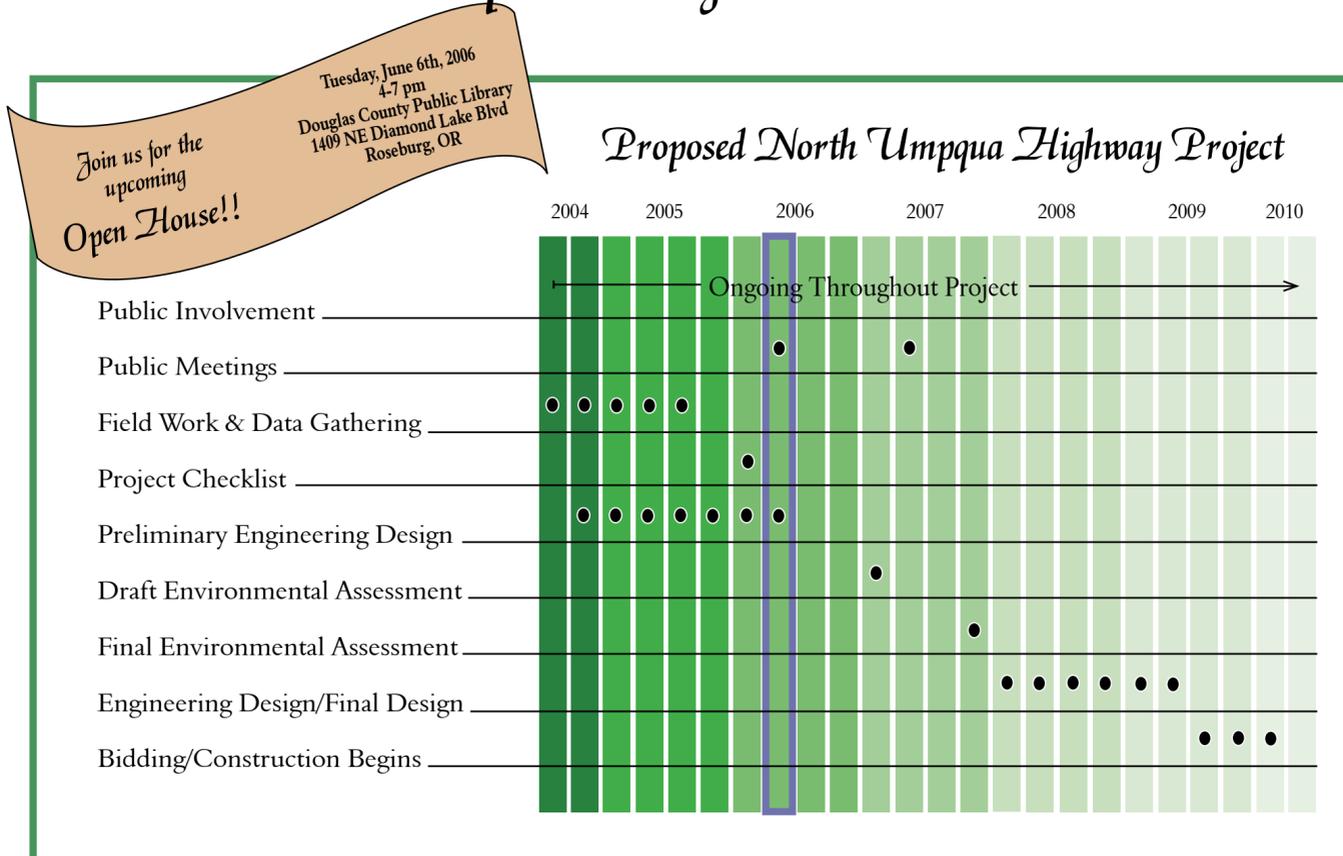
the proposed project and alternatives.

If you would like a copy of the checklist please contact George Fekaris @ 360/619-7766.



FHWA - Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 East Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661

## Proposed Project Schedule

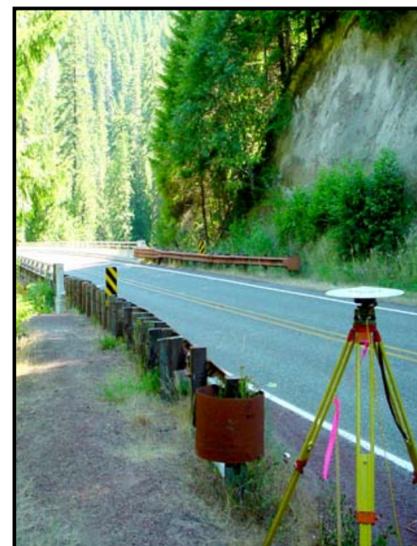


### PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Attend the upcoming Open House!

Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
4-7 P.M.

Douglas County Public Library  
1409 NE Diamond Lake Blvd.  
Roseburg, OR



### Project Partners



Federal Highway Administration  
Western Federal Lands  
Highways Division



Oregon Department of  
Transportation



U.S. Forest Service

## Project Activities

The following field work has been completed or is in process:

- Biological resource studies for Federally listed Threatened or Endangered Species, USFS Sensitive Species and other wildlife
- Botanical Surveys for Federally listed Threatened or Endangered and USFS sensitive plant species, and to identify general habitat conditions
- Analysis of stream crossings to assess fish passage concerns
- Cultural Resource Studies
- Various site visits with regulatory agencies.

These surveys have been conducted to provide information about natural resources that may be present within the project area. This information will be used as a baseline to compare potential effects of construction and operation of different project alternatives on existing natural resources.



The following activities will be completed following the public meeting.

- Preliminary Design
- Stake Proposed Roadway Centerline
- Develop Draft Environmental Assessment

## Project Development

### Planning Steps

1. Compile and review previous public comments and input from adjacent projects
2. Research existing conditions
3. Project introduction and scoping
4. **Data gathering and organize project checklist**
5. **Public Meeting - Scoping & Alternatives**
6. **Develop purpose and need statement**
7. Identify possible improvement alternatives
8. Selected *alternatives* review
9. Conduct studies and alternatives evaluation
10. Prepare Draft Environmental Assessment
11. **Public Meeting - Alternative Evaluation**
12. Comment Period
13. Prepare final Environmental Assessment & issue decision document

## Open House

JUNE 6TH, 2006  
4-7 P.M.

DOUGLAS COUNTY PUBLIC  
LIBRARY  
1409 NE DIAMOND LAKE BLVD  
ROSEBURG, OR

Scoping & Alternatives

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is the purpose of this project?

The purpose of the project is to improve traffic safety and efficiency, as well as provide year-round access to adjoining areas along the North Umpqua within the Umpqua National Forest. It will also improve access to Crater Lake and parts of the Deschutes, Rogue River and Winema National Forests. Improving this section of roadway will result in a roadway width and alignment that incorporates current design standards for traffic safety and efficiency. Therefore, the project makes the roadway consistent with the sections of highway to the west and east of the project site that have been upgraded previously. The project also proposes to improve the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians by installing paved shoulders, and by reducing the long-term maintenance costs.

### Why is this project needed?

- The project corridor is a major link between I-5, SR 99, Highway 97, and County Road 4 (FH 46).
- The project corridor provides access to numerous trails and fishing areas within and near the project area, access to Diamond Lake, Crater Lake National Park, and parts of the Deschutes, Rogue River and Winema National Forests. The current high volume of recreational traffic is expected to continue to increase into the future.
- The highway is used extensively to transport timber and other goods and is used as a mail and school bus route.
- Road shoulders are either below standard or non-existent. This creates a safety concern, especially for bicyclists, and discourages use of the route by bicyclists.
- The entire project corridor contains steep grades and sharp corners which are substandard in horizontal and vertical alignment, and other geometric deficiencies such as road widths, and sight distances.
- Roadside safety features (guardrail, bridge rails, and delineator posts) are lacking and deficient in some areas.
- The project corridor lies between two sections of roadway that have been improved, therefore creating the need for roadway consistency in the project corridor due to motorist expectations and changes in speed between the sections.
- Approximately half of the accidents recorded on the roadway appear to be related to substandard geometrics associated with sharp curves and steep grades.

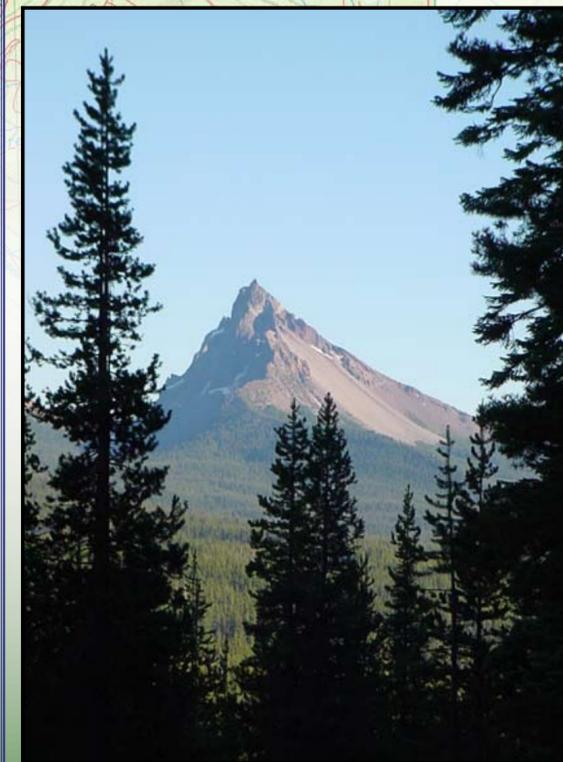
## How long will the EA Study take?

The draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been delayed due to funding and now is tentatively scheduled to be published for comment in March of 2007. Public meetings will be conducted and newsletters distributed to make the NEPA process interactive and meaningful. Through this process citizens are better able to communicate with government officials, and in doing so, have the opportunity to influence the outcome of government decisions. The final EA is tentatively scheduled for the Fall of 2007.

## How to get involved with this project:

1. Fill out the enclosed comment form and return it to us at the address provided below
2. Send all general comments via e-mail to: [george.fekaris@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:george.fekaris@fhwa.dot.gov)
3. Get on the project mailing list by e-mailing: [george.fekaris@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:george.fekaris@fhwa.dot.gov)
4. Send comments to: George Fekaris, Project Manager  
Western Federal Lands Highway Division  
610 East Fifth Street  
Vancouver, WA 98661  
360/619-7766
5. Attend the next public meeting: June 6<sup>th</sup>, at the Douglas County Public Library, Roseburg, OR

For Additional Information, visit the project website:  
<http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/northumpqua>



### Are there any proposed alternatives?

Several alternatives have been reviewed and considered for this project. There are currently 4 alternatives that are being considered with others having been eliminated due to not meeting the purpose and need for the project.

- No-build alternative – existing 24-28 foot width (no shoulders)
- Alternative 1 – 40 foot width (8-foot shoulders)
- Alternative 2 – 30 foot width (3-foot shoulders)
- Alternative 3 – Pavement overlay of existing road

These alternatives will be presented at the Open House Meeting on June 6, 2006 at the Douglas County Public Library. Your comments are welcomed on any of these or other possible alternatives for this project.

