



June 3, 2026

Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 E. Fifth Street
Vancouver, WA 98661

RE: Letter of Support for US 97: S Century Drive – USFS Boundary Phase II and Knott Road Pedestrian Undercrossing Improvements

To Whom It May Concern:

Deschutes County is pleased to submit this letter in support of two ODOT proposals for Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funding:

- US 97: S Century Drive – USFS Boundary Phase II
- Knott Road Pedestrian Undercrossing

The proposed projects are located along US 97, the primary commuter route for many residents of Deschutes County and key travel corridor for visitors to the area. South of Sunriver, the existing two-lane section of US 97 provides limited passing opportunities which lead to lengthy queues that sometimes result in drivers making passing maneuvers at high speeds with limited sight distance. Completion of the final three miles of the US 97: S Century Drive – USFS Boundary will add needed capacity to the highway and improve safety for all users.

The Knott Road Pedestrian Undercrossing will support safe access and operation of the FLAP funded US 97 Multi-Use Trail Project and significantly improve bicycle and pedestrian access to the Deschutes National Forest. The project will provide safe connection to a future park district trail and undercrossing of a busy, high speed county arterial roadway, east of the Baker Road Interchange.

These projects will contribute to the creation of a more efficient, safe and reliable transportation system on US 97. As overall demand continues to increase on US 97 and the Deschutes National Forest, these improvements are critical to ensure the economic viability of the services and amenities the forest offers for central Oregon communities.

Deschutes County is pleased to support these projects and urge your consideration of their applications.

Sincerely,

*Phil Chang, Chair
Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners*