



MEMORANDUM

TO: Deschutes County Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Tarik Rawlings, Senior Transportation Planner

DATE: December 1, 2025

SUBJECT: Informational Update – US 97 / Baker Road Interchange Area Management Plan (IAMP) (ODOT)

On December 1, 2025, staff from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will deliver an informational update to the Planning Commission regarding the May 2025 US 97 / Baker Road Interchange Area Management Plan (IAMP). This update follows a similar update before the Planning Commission that was held on October 9, 2025. The final version of the IAMP represents over four years of dedicated collaboration between Deschutes County staff and ODOT. Solutions outlined within the IAMP are incorporated into the existing 2020-2040 Deschutes County Transportation System Plan (TSP) as project S-12 (ODOT Intersections Changes and Associated Cost Estimates). The TSP, adopted through Deschutes County Ordinance 2023-017, also reflects comprehensive public outreach, interagency coordination, and acknowledgement from the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD).

I. BACKGROUND

As defined in OAR 734-051-1070, an interchange refers to "...a system of interconnecting roadways in conjunction with one or more grade separations that provides for the movement of traffic between two or more roadways or highways on different levels."¹ The primary objective of an IAMP is to set forth an agreement with local governments regarding necessary transportation solutions, including land use actions and policies required to enact these solutions. This agreement ensures the preservation of interchange functionality while maximizing the benefits of new transportation infrastructure investments.

Constructed in the early 1990s, the Baker Road / US 97 interchange initially intended to serve the rural areas south of Bend and to facilitate truck freight traffic between Highway 97, to the south, and Highway 20, to the east via Knott Road and SE 27th Street.

ODOT, supported by its consultants from DKS, initiated comprehensive regional coordination for the IAMP in early 2021. During the formative phases, Deschutes County staff provided input on anticipated

¹ ODOT IAMP Guidelines (2013) – pg.2

impacts concerning County transportation infrastructure within the designated IAMP study area. Significant elements of the study area addressed by Deschutes County transportation planning and engineering staff include:

- Current commercial developments (e.g., Riverwoods Country Store and newly approved storage facilities)
- Anticipated traffic pattern changes due to recommended mitigations, which involve a BNSF railway crossing and roundabout intersection treatments
- Enhancements in connectivity to County roadways, including a proposed Cascades East Transit (CET) public transit stop
- Strategic access management along Knott Road

The final IAMP version, compiled in May 2025, integrates feedback from public consultations and agency dialogues, encapsulating Deschutes County's provided insights throughout the planning phase of the project.

II. ODOT PRESENTATION AND OVERVIEW

The presentation provided by ODOT representatives will provide an overview of:

- The IAMPs purpose
- Project timeline
- Public outreach
- Organization of the IAMP report
- Project recommendation
- Access management
- Implementation

III. QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

County staff, DKS staff, and ODOT representatives are available for any questions

Attachments:

- US 97 Baker Road Interchange Area Management Plan (IAMP) (*May 2025*)
- ODOT/DKS Presentation