

**Bypass #11 - Willamina-Sheridan Bypass, OR 18, Salmon River Highway,
Highway 39 (MP 24.23-34.32)**

Description: This section of OR 18, a Statewide Highway on the National Highway System, is a primary route for travel between the Portland and Salem metropolitan areas and the central Oregon coast. Multiple modes of travel are available in the corridor. It is used both for commuter and recreational/tourist travel, catering to coastal tourist traffic and visitors to wineries and two gambling casinos. The OR 18 Willamina-Sheridan Bypass is a two-lane highway except for a four-lane section with a grass median between MP 27.8 and MP 29.3.

Construction in 1959. No Environmental Impact Statement.

Purpose of the bypass:

- To improve vehicle and bicycle safety, level of service and access control,
- To provide additional capacity without impacting the communities (the bypassed highway was constrained by a river and a railroad), and
- To alleviate problems created by high traffic volumes.

Land use: The bypass lies primarily outside the corporate city limits of Sheridan and Willamina. The primary land use is farming. An area south of the bypass has been annexed to Sheridan to provide for construction of a federal prison since the bypass was built.

Population for 2002:

Willamina-1,840

Sheridan- 5,580

Traffic volumes: The 2000 average daily traffic volume was 8,800. That includes a substantial number of trucks. Weekend and summer traffic volumes are substantially higher than the annual average.

Crash rate: The average crash rate from 1998-2000 was 0.42 per million vehicle miles traveled, lower than the state average for rural highways. The dominant collision types were fixed or other object, turning movement, angle and head on.

Analysis: The bypass has carried out the project purposes. The only significant additional development on the bypass has been the federal prison.

Primary source: *Portland to Lincoln City Corridor, Oregon Highways 99W and 18, I-5 to U.S. 101 Interim Corridor Strategy, March 1997*