

July 21, 2010

WASHINGTON, DC- Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) today announced he has secured approval for \$300,000 to be used for important highway safety improvements in Cave Junction. The funding was included in the Transportation, HUD Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2011. The bill was approved by the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday, July 20, 2010.

“I'm pleased the Committee has recognized this important community safety concern,” DeFazio said. “This funding will help mitigate a long-standing traffic hazard and ensure public safety.

US 199 Safety Improvements in Cave Junction; \$300,000;

US 199 (Redwood Highway) serves as an important connection between the Rogue Valley and I-5 corridor to the communities of the Illinois Valley and the southern Oregon/northern California coast. It also serves as main street for the City of Cave Junction near the edge of the Siskiyou National Forest. The intersection of US 199 and River Street in Cave Junction does not have a traffic signal yet is used as a pedestrian crossing by students from three local schools. This results in a dangerous street crossing for the students. The intersection also has a history of rear end collisions when vehicles stop in the inside lane to make left turns onto River Street because the intersection lacks turn lanes and a traffic signal.

This project will improve safety at this intersection by installing a new traffic signal and reconfiguring the roadway to a three lane section with one lane in each direction and a left turn refuge. This narrowing will slow the speed of traffic, allow for a safer crossing for children, and allow traffic to safely turn to and from US 199.

The Transportation-HUD Appropriations bill must now be approved by the full House of Representatives.