

Moving Ahead

with ODOT

14

Family-Wage

Jobs

Are Sustained

For Every

\$1 million

Spent On

Transportation Construction

In

Oregon



ODOT "Keeping Oregon on the Move"

 **PUTTING
OREGON
BACK TO WORK**

Moving Ahead with ODOT

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR

Jared Castle, (541) 957-3656
jared.b.castle@odot.state.or.us

CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS

Bill Boyett, Jared Castle,
Gillian Colin, Gary Leaming

ADVERTISING SALES

Tim Tergeoglou, (541) 776-4356
ttergeoglou@mailtribune.com

PRODUCT INNOVATION

Susie Wenaus, Manager
Bret Jackson, Graphic Design
Steve Johnson, Photography

For information on advertising in
this publication please contact
Patti Phillips-Kahn at
(541) 776-4446 or via email:
pphillips-kahn@dailytidings.com

PRODUCT INNOVATION DIVISION, a division of the *Mail Tribune* Advertising Department, provides professional production and design services to market your business in print and on the Internet. This feature publication is produced separately from the *Mail Tribune's* newspaper editorial department. All content is provided or approved by the Oregon Department of Transportation.

ODOT is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer committed to a diverse workforce. Accommodations will be provided to persons with disabilities. Alternate formats available upon request.

Putting Oregon Back to Work

Governor Ted Kulongoski unveiled Oregon's new federal stimulus project sign last month as ODOT awarded the first federal-stimulus funded project from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

"The state stimulus package *Go Oregon!*, the federal stimulus program, and the plan spelled out in my Jobs and Transportation Act will create thousands of jobs, improve transportation infrastructure and address years of deferred maintenance on aging buildings across Oregon," the Governor said.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

The federal economic stimulus legislation, known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA, HR 1), provides Oregon over \$400 million to preserve and improve the state's highways, transit systems, and bicycle/pedestrian infrastructure. Funding will be provided to the state, local governments, and transit districts under a variety of programs.

Oregon could receive more than that by competing for and winning grant dollars also included in the Act. Go online to www.oregon.gov/ODOT/recovery/economic_stimulus.shtml for more information.

Go Oregon! state stimulus plan

Governor Kulongoski signed into law Senate Bill 338, the *Go Oregon!* state stimulus plan. The plan authorizes \$175 million in bonding to fund projects that will make needed repairs to schools, colleges, transportation infrastructure and address deferred maintenance projects across the state. The projects will create jobs for Oregonians at a time when the unemployment rate continues to climb.

Projects for the Oregon Department of Transportation account for \$4.4 million in *Go Oregon!* funding. ODOT will let more than 100 projects – the majority of the projects are small, under \$50,000 – for bid throughout the state and will go through a streamlined small contracting process. Go online to www.oregon.gov/ODOT/recovery/stimulus_info.shtml for more information.

Oregon Transportation Investment Act

The Oregon Department of Transportation's 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act. OTIA funds are repairing or replacing hundreds of bridges, paving and maintaining city and county roads, improving and expanding interchanges, adding new capacity to Oregon's highway system and removing freight bottlenecks statewide.

Based on 2008 dollars, about 14 family-wage jobs are sustained for every \$1 million spent on transportation construction in Oregon. Each year during the remainder of the OTIA program, it is estimated that construction projects will sustain an average of 4,100 family-wage jobs. Go online to egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/OTIA/ for more information.

Summer edition comes out June 11

Our summer edition will detail all of the state highway construction work around the Rogue Valley. Drop us a line (the contact information is on this page) and let us know what you'd like to see in upcoming editions.

Remember, orange cones on Oregon roads mean one thing: work zone ahead. The single biggest factor in crashes is driver inattention, the other contributing factor is speed. We ask motorists to slow down, pay attention to work zone signs and watch for workers. National Work Zone Awareness Week is April 6-10. For more information about that effort go online to: www.workzonesafety.org.

Phoenix awaits release of Fern Valley Draft EA

The heavily-anticipated Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Fern Valley Interchange project in Phoenix is scheduled for release later spring.

The Draft EA will evaluate two alternatives, a combination of previous concepts and an alternative submitted by the Phoenix Association of Business and Property Owners.

According to ODOT Project Leader Dick Leever, the Draft EA was originally scheduled for release in September 2008.

"The federally-required process took longer than anticipated," said Leever. "It is important that we go forward knowing as much as we can about the two designs and the various impacts of each."



The release of the Draft EA starts a 30-day public comment period that will include an open house in Phoenix.

Construction on the Fern Valley Interchange project is currently scheduled to begin in 2012 with an estimated \$70 million budget.

Additional background information and project updates are available online at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION3>.

We Carry ALL of YOUR TRAFFIC CONTROL NEEDS



We manufacture to **MUTCD, ODOT, Cal-Trans, or other specifications.**
IT'S OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY.



773-2765

Toll Free: (877) 773-2765
In the Suburban Business Park
3981 Crater Lake Hwy.
Medford, OR 97504

WWW.CANTELOFMEDFORD.COM

3-453992-4/9



Pacific Electrical Contractors

ELECTRICAL DESIGN • PROJECT MANAGEMENT • CONSTRUCTION

RESIDENTIAL

- Hot tub and pool wiring
- 24-hour emergency repairs
- Home automation
- Home theatre
- Fuse panel to circuit breaker conversion
- New construction
- No job is too small



COMMERCIAL / INDUSTRIAL

- Full-service electrical
- Lighting design and maintenance
- Telephone and data cable
- Traffic Signal Installations and Roadway Illumination

50+

Serving homeowners and businesses for over fifty years.

Schedule a free estimate on our website for any residential or commercial project.

(541) 773-7751

www.pacificelectrical.com
920 South Grape Street, Medford, Oregon
Electrical Lic. #15-10C - CCB #3651

C-437307-11/216



I-5 project on schedule, lanes to reopen in two weeks

Motorists are welcoming the good news in south Medford: the six-week Interstate 5 rebuild project is on schedule to reopen all lanes before the end of April.

The project began in mid-March, closing one lane of I-5 in each direction so construction crews could dig up the original concrete used when I-5 was built in the 1960s.

"The road bed was either compacted soil or a thin layer of asphalt," said ODOT Project Information Specialist Gary Leaming. "The concrete roadbed dispersed the weight well but traffic volumes and weights have changed significantly since I-5 was first built."

Over time, the concrete cracked beneath the increasing traffic volumes and weights, allowing water to seep into the roadbed. The project rebuilds I-5 with two feet of new roadbed topped with nine inches of asphalt.

"We knew this would be a major inconvenience for everyone," said ODOT Project Manager Joe Thomas. "Our goal is to get the work done as quickly as possible so we can reopen I-5 for summer, when traffic volumes are at their highest."

The work zone provides adequate space so construction can run in two shifts, 22 hours per day. Construction work will continue through the summer but will not require lane closures.

Stan and Ann

Roughly 48,000 vehicles travel between the two Medford I-5 interchanges each day. About half of that traffic consists of local motorists who use I-5 to travel quickly from north and south Medford.

ODOT launched a multi-media information campaign asking Medford-area motorists to use local roads during the six-week project. The TV and radio advertisements featured Stan and Ann, a married couple who gets stuck in traffic.

More project information, including the TV and radio advertisements featuring Stan and Ann are available online at www.oregon.gov. The TV ads can also be found on www.youtube.com.



Thank You O.D.O.T.!

— from —
NOR'WESTER'S BEST

Whaleshead Beach Resort

19921 Whaleshead Rd.,
Brookings, OR 97415
800 943-4325
www.whalesheadresort.com

Nor'wester Industries

1722 Bishop Road,
Chehalis, WA 98532
800 346-5701
www.norwesterindustries.com

Mountain Resort@Hyatt Lake,

7979 Hyatt Prairie Rd.,
Ashland, OR 97520
(541) 482-3331
www.hyattlakeresorts.com

All of us appreciate the tremendous effort to keep the highway information rolling with news on construction areas, road closures, etc. It really helps the drivers to plan their trips with time efficiency and safety consciousness.

Our top driver, Bill Duke, can be seen delivering Nor'wester cabins throughout the scenic areas of our great NorthWest. Bill has had his commercial license for 34 years traversing back and forth through a 15-state area. Bill's driving record is accident-free and he says he has always relied on Oregon's information system to guide him.

Here in southern Oregon, at the Ashland Port of Entry, our special connection is "Miss ODOT" herself, Wanda Stroud. About to come up on her 30th year career celebration, we know with that wealth of knowledge, we can count on Wanda to keep us on the straight and narrow. Wanda, what will we ever do without you? We'll be on the road for a long time.

Watch for Bill Duke and the rest of our drivers burning up the road to deliver our newest and most exciting MODULAR UNITS now arriving on private property locations. These modulars are spacious residential living with easy installation and almost immediate occupancy.

Plan a Northwest vacation and book a cabin Nor'wester the whole way. Remember to look us up when you are in these areas:

Whaleshead Beach Resort & Hyatt Lake Resort are listed above and these are the following locations:

Beachloop RV Village

53877 W. Beach Loop Drive, Bandon, OR 97411
(541) 347-2100 • www.beachlooprv.com

Lewis & Clark Golf & RV Resort,

92294 Youngs River Rd., Astoria, OR 97103
(503) 338.3386 • www.lewisandclarkatthecrossing.com

Sea Perch RV Resort

95480 Hwy. 101, Yachats, OR 97498
(541) 547.3505 • www.seaperchrvresort.com

Willamette Pass Inn & Chalets

PO Box 1035, Crescent Lake, OR 97733
(541) 433-2211 fax: (541) 433-9351 • www.willamettepassinn.com

★ CALL FOR THE DIFFERENT AMENITIES AND ACTIVITIES OF EACH RESORT ★

Remember, the MODULARS are available for sale to install on your own personal property. Call for more information at 800 346-5701 or visit our Web site at www.norwesterindustries.com

(2)450335-02/04e

Barnett Road businesses brace for six-month closure

With each opening of a new Interstate 5 on- and off-ramps serving as project milestones, the biggest challenge still lies ahead for the \$70 million South Medford Interchange project.

Beginning June 1, construction will shift focus from work on I-5 to replacing the Barnett Road-Bear Creek Bridge. The bridge, which is owned by the City of Medford, recently needed emergency repairs to prevent it from being load limited, effectively closing the bridge to all traffic except passenger cars.

Over the past 60 years, the Barnett Road-Bear Creek Bridge has grown from a two-lane bridge on a country road to carrying more than 45,000 vehicles per day.

A new bridge ensures Barnett Road will continue to serve south Medford traffic without any weight restrictions.

Barnett Road will be closed to through traffic between Stewart Ave. and Highland Drive. The businesses in the area – Black Bear Restaurant, Best Western Inn, Dairy Queen, Motel 6, Days Inn and Travel Lodge will remain open during the bridge replacement work (see the project map on pages 6-7).

According to ODOT Project Manager Joe Thomas, prime contractor Wildish Standard Paving of Eugene is under a fast-track schedule for this project stage.

"We examined a lot of different construction approaches to find a way to tear down the old bridge and build a new one in the least amount of time and with the fewest traffic impacts," said Thomas. "Naturally, the local business owners are concerned about how long the closure would last, how customers would reach them, and how we would ensure signing was in place, so customers would know these these businesses are open."

Working with local businesses

According to ODOT Project Information Specialist Gary Leaming, the agency has met with these adjacent businesses to address their concerns during construction.

"We know customers need to reach these businesses during the six-month closure," said Leaming. "We'll launch an information campaign that will include directional signs, maps and mailings to coincide with the work."

Speeding up construction

Wildish Standard Paving started making preparations for the bridge replacement last year. A work bridge skeleton was built in Bear Creek, just north of the existing bridge. That work will speed up the mobilization efforts to demolish and replace the existing bridge.

"There's a limited window for the contractor to work inside a waterway, below the ordinary high water mark," said Leaming.

The in-water work window runs from June 15 to Sept. 15. That time period is the creek's low flow months and is regulated due to fish spawning concerns.

Project background

The South Medford Interchange project is designed to improve safety and reduce congestion. The centerpiece of the project is construction of a new interchange 1,900 feet south of the existing Barnett Road exit (exit 27). The

new interchange design is called a single point urban interchange (SPUI), which can handle a large volume of traffic. The SPUI is located close to Bear Creek, so additional bridges are needed to accommodate the retaining walls for the on- and off-ramps.

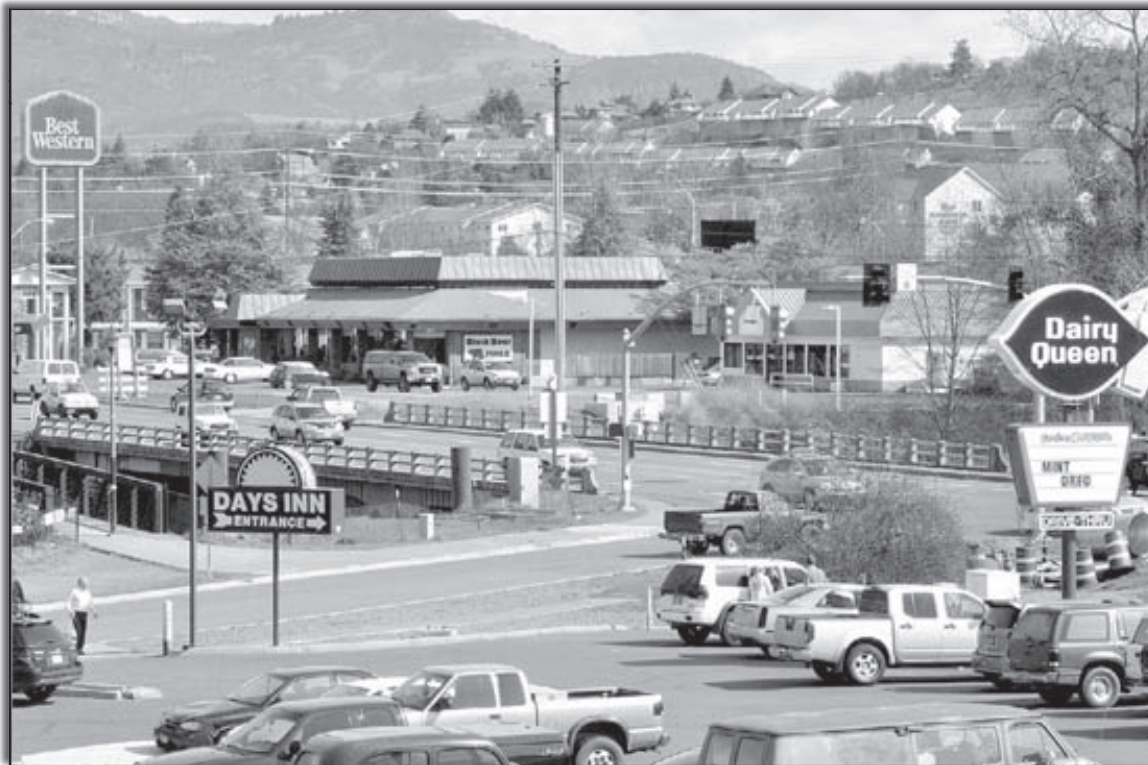
The South Medford Interchange project went to bid in 2006 after more than seven years of development. The project is the largest state highway project in the Rogue Valley since I-5 was built.

The project was designed to improve safety and congestion in south Medford. The

City of Medford is contributing \$15 million toward the project.

A project Solution Team and Citizens Advisory Committee worked through more than 20 different concepts to develop the design. The Highland Alternative was identified as the preferred alternative.

Construction updates and a video are available on the project Web site, www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region3.



4 SEASONS AUTOS

Darrell Sr. & Seasons
7 Years in Business, 39 Years Experience

Company Mascot
6 yr. old Choc. Lab

We Buy Quality Used Vehicles!

BUY HERE, PAY HERE, BAD CREDIT OK

MANY CARFAX VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM!

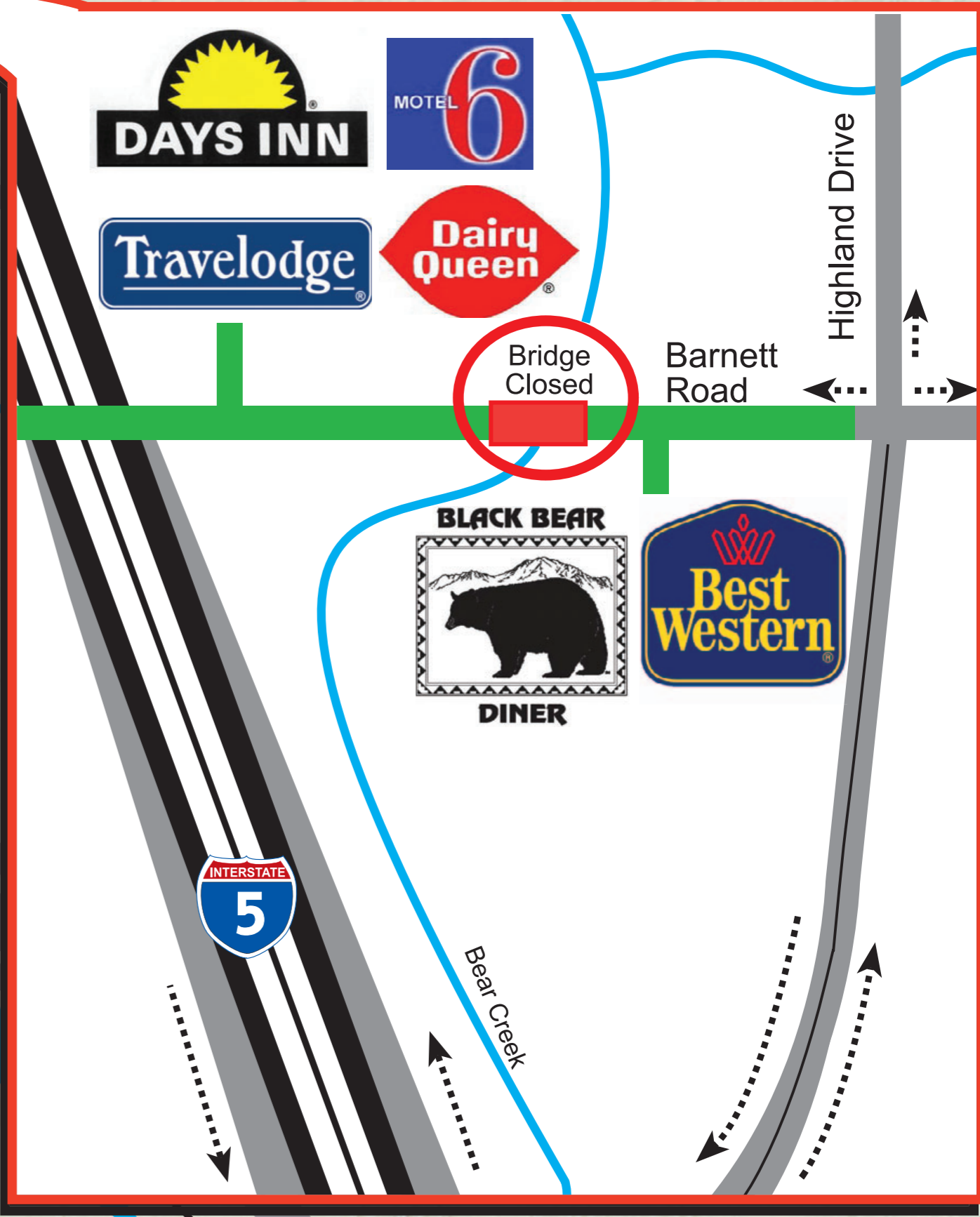
Now At **4 SEASONS AUTOS**

1244 S. Riverside Ave., Medford • CALL 773-1975

©2009 4S

South Medford Project

Barnett Road will be closed from June 1 to December 1 to replace the Bear Creek Bridge. Access to the local businesses will be available during construction. More information is available on the project Web site: www.oregon.gov/odot/hwy/region3.



Grants Pass construction to improve safety, aesthetics

Prime contractor Copeland Construction of Grants Pass started work on the Highway 99/238 project in March. The project focuses on two sections: repaving Highway 99 from Fruitdale Creek to Fruitdale Road; and a grind and inlay of new asphalt on Highway 238 from the "South Y" intersection to near Jaynes Drive.

This \$4.5 million Highway 99/238 project focuses construction on both ends of recent highway improvements that the City of Grants Pass completed last year.

"The original project plan was to just repave a section of Highway 99," said ODOT Project Leader Jayne Randleman. "The City of Grants Pass asked our agency to consider adding other elements to improve aesthetics and safety.

"The City saw this area as a gateway into the community and had a vision of adding curbs, gutters, sidewalk, bike lanes and landscaping."

ODOT worked with the City to tap additional funds to pay for sidewalks and bicycle improvements. Together, city staff and the agency delivered presentations to the Grants Pass City Council. The partnership included meetings with property owners in the project area and a workshop for the city council and business owners.

"This will be a nice addition to Grants Pass when the project is completed," said Randleman. "When finished, the city will have a new road with a beautiful streetscape that will be friendly to motorists, businesses, bicycles and pedestrians."

The changes haven't come without concerns, primarily from business owners worried about access. ODOT Public Service Representative Bill Boyett has been on site since mid-March, talking to business owners.

"I'm there to communicate the day-to-day changes on the project," Boyett said. "The agency and the city spent a lot of time during the design phase sharing information about the changes coming to business accesses.

Randleman said the lack of access control was one of the factors that led to a higher-than-usual crash rate.

"This project is adding defined driveways to this stretch of highway," Boyett said. "Before there were no driveways, so you had people pulling in and out and backing into traffic."



GET THE ADVANTAGE!

ADVANTAGE TIRE
1-800-618-8667

Wherever you travel, you'll be protected by our Coast-to-Coast Service Warranty Plan that's honored at over 1500 affiliated service locations nationwide. • **FREE** Tire Replacement and • **FREE** 24-Hour Roadside Assistance with our Freedom Plan Tire Protection Warranty.

We're dedicated to giving you the highest quality products and services and the best possible prices!

90 Days
Same As Cash!

- Large Selection of Tires
- Truck & Auto Accessories
- Lift Kits/Lowering Kits
- Brakes • Alignment
- Custom Wheels
- Shocks & Struts

618-8667
800-320-8667
290 N. Pacific Hwy • MEDFORD
STORE HOURS: M-F 8:00am - 5:30pm

455312 - 4/9

FREE STORAGE

RV • Boat • Vehicle • Trailer

Up to 6 months FREE Storage*
Call 734-5544

A-BEST STORAGE OFFERS
✓ State of the art security
✓ 7 day a week access

Office Hours: Monday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Gate Hours: Monday - Sunday 7:00 AM - 9:00 PM

3071 Samike Drive Medford, OR 97501

www.abestministorage.com

* New customers or current customers upgrading

455806 - 4/9

September facelift planned for historic Rock Point Bridge

The Rock Point Bridge, which spans the Rogue River about 12 miles northwest of Medford, is scheduled to get a well-deserved facelift this September. The bridge opened north of Gold Hill in 1920 – when Oregon featured only 620 miles of paved roads statewide – after the last of the wooden structures that preceded it (dating back to the 1860s) was lost to flood.

The Rock Point Bridge was designed by Conde B. McCullough, who would go on to become Oregon's premier bridge engineer, famous for the series of Oregon coastal bridges constructed in the 1930s. The bridge's south approach was replaced in 1953.

In 2000, expedited repair work strengthened the bridge's crossbeams in order to lift a weight restriction (10,000-pound gross load) placed on the bridge by the ODOT bridge engineering section.

The \$4.6 million repair project will replace the bridge railing using stronger concrete and steel while replicating the original design. Additionally, the bridge deck and cracked or defective concrete will also be replaced. To accommodate the repair work the bridge will undergo a significant closure after Labor Day.

Detours will be in place during the Rock Point Bridge closure, directing motorists to use the Gold Hill interchange at Interstate 5 exit 40. Emergency service providers will also be notified so they can make accommodations during the bridge closure.

"We know the closure will be an inconvenience," said ODOT Project Leader Dick Leever. "Our goal is to get the work done and the bridge reopened quickly while keeping our eye on the budget."

On the Rock Point Bridge, McCullough illustrated how form could complement function and the nearby landscape. Using a reinforced concrete deck arch, he designed a 505-foot span bridge over one of the rockiest sections of the Rogue River, hence the name Rock Point.

According to *Historic Highway Bridges of Oregon*, construction was a challenge: "Because of the great depth of water at the bridge location, it was impossible to build falsework under the main arch span. The contractor (Parker and Banfield, Portland) solved the problem by building a temporary wood truss span over the bridge to give support to the forms."







We have the finest motorcoaches!

Call about our upcoming

MONTHLY RENO TRIPS



Sunrise Tours presents...

RENO, Nevada.....April 27-29
 \$99 per person (double occupancy),
 \$130 single, two free breakfasts, \$5 lunch coupon, & \$22 cash back.

Australia & New Zealand	April 2009
Branson, Missouri	May 2009
Amtrak/Glacier Trip	July 15-19, 2009
Southwest National Parks	July 12-30, 2009
USA Fall Foliage by Coach	Oct. 1-Nov. 2, 2009
USA Fall Foliage by Air	October 10-25, 2009

Discounted Rates for School Charters



541-826-4616 or

541-292-6555 (cell)

455027-04/09

WE PULL TOGETHER

Fleets:

- Gross Lease • Glass Fleet • Multi-Axle Fleet
- Tanker/Chemical Fleet • Curtain Van • Machinery Fleet
- Safe & modern equipment • Excellent Compensation packages
- Lease Purchase Available • #1 in service and satisfaction for drivers and customers

Driver Services: 800-457-1459

www.drive4sbi.com



(2)456005-04/09

Living life in the fast lane?
Not everyone may be able to see you.



See and be seen.
RIDE YOUR BICYCLE SAFELY.
IT'S THE WAY TO GO.

 Oregon
Department
of Transportation

Construction resumes on five Ashland-area bridges

Motorists are now driving on two new Interstate 5 bridges in the Ashland area. The northbound I-5 bridges spanning Eagle Mill Road and Bear Creek opened to traffic earlier this year as construction work focuses on the southbound bridges. Later this month work will restart on the Neil Creek Bridge after a winter hiatus.

Hamilton Construction Co. of Springfield is the prime contractor for the \$25.7 million project.

"Construction work this spring and summer will focus on getting these bridges finished," said ODOT Project Information Specialist Gary Leaming.

I-5 bridges in the Ashland area that will be replaced this season:

- The southbound bridge that spans Eagle Mill Road, located two miles south of exit 19.
- The southbound bridge that spans Bear Creek, located 0.8 miles north of exit 14.
- The southbound portion of the Neil Creek Bridge, located three miles south of Ashland.

Age, weather and heavy use took their toll on these five I-5 bridges. An average of 27,000 vehicles per day cross the bridges over Bear Creek and Eagle Mill Road, and 15,000 vehicles per day cross the bridge over Neil Creek Road. After nearly 50 years of service, the bridges must be replaced to meet modern traffic and freight requirements.

According to Leaming, even though the bridge replacement project spans two seasons, several factors tightened the work window for Hamilton Construction.

"Construction work had to take into account the unusually high water levels in Bear Creek last year," Leaming said. "And the Neil Creek Bridge work shut down last November because the work was in a snow zone."

Motorists are advised to watch for traffic shifts and occasional lane closures during construction. Additionally, the Oregon State Police will strictly enforce work zone speed limits.

Design work planned for exit 14 and 19 bridges

Ashland's two Interstate 5 interchange bridges — exits 14 and 19 — are scheduled to undergo construction in 2010.

In preparation for the bridge work, the City of Ashland has taken the lead in helping to select aesthetic designs while staying within the projects' schedule and budget. The city-appointed Aesthetics Advisory Committee has been developing preliminary designs to incorporate into the project.

According to ODOT Area Manager Art Anderson, the committee's work and more details about the bridge work will be shared with the public at an open house later this spring.

"Unlike the North and South Medford Interchange projects, the Ashland projects will focus on just the I-5 bridges with some minor modifications," Anderson said.

The exit 14 work includes:

- Widening the existing bridge to accommodate a center turn lane;
- Adding sidewalks and bike lanes on the bridge;
- Lowering I-5 to accommodate today's bridge height requirements;
- Signalizing the on- and off-ramps.

The exit 19 work includes:

- Replacing the existing bridge to accommodate a center turn lane;
- Constructing wide shoulders that can accommodate future sidewalks;
- Adding design aesthetics to the bridge design.

These projects are part of the Oregon Department of Transportation's 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act. OTIA funds are repairing or replacing hundreds of bridges, paving and maintaining city and county roads, improving and expanding interchanges, adding new capacity to Oregon's highway system and removing freight bottlenecks statewide.

Based on 2008 dollars, about 14 family-wage jobs are sustained for every \$1 million spent on transportation construction in Oregon. Each year during the remainder of the OTIA program, it is estimated that construction projects will sustain an average of 4,100 family-wage jobs.

25 rooms right on the beach in **BANDON**



Windermere
on the beach



Near 5 world-class golf courses
Pet friendly | Free wi-fi
Ask about mid-week specials
Fabulous ocean views

10% off in April if you mention this ad.
Windermere Motel on the Beach
3250 Beach Loop Drive | Bandon, Oregon
Reservations 541-347-3710

www.windermerebythesea.com

3-456053-4/9-e

If you can't afford first-class plane tickets, you **can** afford a **first-class ride** to the new Medford airport!

Make a reservation 24/7 with



Rogue Valley Town Car

541.772.3472
or email roguetowncar@gmail.com

All Major Credit Cards Accepted
Medford • Ashland • Grants Pass

www.RogueValleyTownCar.com

3-455987-4/9

Tires **LES SCHWAB**

TIRE SALE



PASSENGER CAR RADIALS

ECLIPSE
P155/80R-13

TOUREVO LS
195/60HR-15

Our Most Popular
ON SALE

THREE MEDFORD LOCATIONS

701 N Central Ave
(541) 772-5744
Medford, OR 97501-5816

500 Matt Loop (S. Pacific Hwy)
(541) 779-3180
Medford, OR 97501-8817

2095 Commerce Dr
(541) 779-5055
Medford, OR 97504-9744

WWW.LESSCHWAB.COM