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4-73-R2

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## **Speed limit on I-105 to be reduced to 45 mph**

EUGENE- Construction activity has forced Oregon Department of Transportation officials to reduce the speed limit on a 3-mile stretch of I-105 to 45 miles per hour between the I-5 over crossing and Delta Interchange. The speed limit change is scheduled to occur at 5 p.m. on Friday, April 15 and continue until the major freeway work is completed around July 1.

The primary reason for the speed reduction is to improve safety while traveling in the work zone. The 8-10 foot asphalt shoulders have been removed while constructing the embankment and auxiliary lanes adjacent to the freeway leaving no refuge spot for stranded motorists. In addition, the striping on the ramps at I-5 and Coburg Road on to I-105 have been modified to allow staged construction operations, which reduce the amount of acceleration/taper distance vehicles normally use to merge with I-105 traffic. Also, the bridge rail retrofit work continues on some narrow structures and night operations include several lane closures with heavy equipment and truck traffic congestion.

Motorists are reminded to pay attention to construction signs and slow down while going through the work zone. Oregon State Police will be enforcing the new speed limit and traffic fines are double in construction zones.

I-105 construction work that will include major traffic impacts is expected to start around May 13. Once started, that element of work is scheduled to last 66 days and nights. During this period, the contractor will remove the Portland cement concrete travel way that was built in 1967 and replace it with 12 inches of asphalt. For approximately 8 days, the east bound lane of I-105 will be closed for construction, with only west bound traffic allowed; then alternating to the opposite side and closing the west bound lane for about 8 days for construction with east bound traffic allowed while working over the I-5 interchange.

In addition, the Delta Highway interchange will require a full closure of I-105 for 3 days, which will be scheduled over a weekend. The Coburg Avenue interchange will also have specific staging for 12 days in each direction where west bound traffic will be forced to use the ramp; east bound traffic will be restricted to a single lane for 12 days. The exact dates for the closures have not been scheduled yet by the contractor.

As I-105 work continues into May, the contractor will continue working around the clock and the community may experience significant traffic impacts. There is a \$35,000-per-day incentive for the contractor to finish the work ahead of schedule.

Motorists are encouraged to visit the web site [www.keepusmoving.info](http://www.keepusmoving.info) to "Find a new way" during I-105 construction. The web site provides information on alternative modes of transportation to help reduce trips each day on I-105 by using bus, carpool, alternate work and travel schedule, bike, walk, etc. For up to date construction information, please visit the web site [www.keepusmoving.info](http://www.keepusmoving.info) or call 541-984-8484.