

First closure of I-105 construction ends; next closure begins on Tuesday, May 31

EUGENE— The first phase of I-105 construction with significant traffic impacts to eastbound traffic will be completed at noon Friday, May 27. There will be no construction Memorial Day weekend with I-105 completely open to two-way traffic. The second closure will begin at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, May 31.

ODOT's contractors encountered soft wet soils in the east portion of the eastbound I-105 repair work, which caused some delay to new pavement placement. The contractor will be working until noon on Friday, instead of 6:00 a.m. as previously announced.

As a reminder, the westbound commute from Springfield to Eugene will be impacted starting Tuesday morning, after the holiday. Beginning May 31, the contractor resumes work with the closure of the westbound lanes of I-105 over the I-5 interchange, and continues for eight days. Motorists need to be aware of the following:

- During the westbound closure over the I-5 interchange, the westbound lanes (from Springfield) will be required to exit to northbound I-5 where traffic can then take the westbound Beltline Highway exit as the detour route;
- Traffic from Springfield will not be able to directly access Eugene or exit south on to I-5. Traffic wishing to get to downtown Eugene will then need to take either the Coburg Road or Delta Highway south. Traffic attempting to go south on I-5 will be forced to loop around the Beltline or turn around at the Coburg exit; and
- There is potential for very heavy congestion at these interchanges, and drivers are strongly encouraged to avoid the area if possible and use east-west routes farther south.
- This phase of construction is scheduled to be completed Tuesday, June 7.

Beginning the second week of June, the section of I-105 that crosses over Coburg Road will experience 12 days of full lane closures in each direction. In phase three, the west bound traffic will be forced to use the Coburg Road exit ramp. During this 12 day period, the contractor will start the Delta Highway closure on the first Friday at 6 a.m. Both closures will run concurrently with the Delta Highway closure portion scheduled to open on the following Wednesday at 6 a.m. Once the westbound Coburg Road closure is complete, the west bound traffic will be returned to the over crossing and east bound traffic will be forced to use the ramp.

Once started, the five closures are scheduled within a consecutive 66 day and night window of time. The planned combining of closure 3 and closure 5 could potentially shorten the 66 day window needed to complete the closure phases of the project. 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. As I-105 work continues into June, 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.

ODOT's contractor on the job, Oregon Mainline Paving, has been working on the project since January building new auxiliary lanes, upgrading guard and bridge rails and bringing the shoulder and median barriers up to current standards. Most of the work is expected to be finished by the end of the summer.

Motorists are encouraged to visit the web site www.keepusmoving.info and to "Find a New Way" both during and after construction. The web site provides information on closure issues, construction updates, provides downloadable files for respective communications about the project and suggests alternative modes of transportation to help reduce vehicle trips each day 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 or call the City of Eugene hosted Regional Metro Road Report at 541-984-8484.

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