

ODOT's trip Web site makes driving easier

You're stuck on Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway, rain is pounding on the roof of your car and your favorite radio personality is warning of congestion ahead. Is there an accident? A lane closure or detour you didn't know about?

One way to find out about traffic issues in the area is to check Oregon Department of Transportation's Web site, tripcheck.com before heading out.

Winter weather and unprecedented levels of highway construction statewide mean drivers should be prepared. The Oregon Department of Transportation's TripCheck web site provides motorists with a one-stop site for Oregon travel information.

Representatives from ODOT say that the Web site is more useful than ever for motorists as construction ramps up on I-5, I-84 and other major routes across the state, mostly due to ODOT's \$1.3 billion OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program. The bridge program, part of the agency's 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act, is repairing and replacing hundreds of aging bridges across the state. On I-5 alone, drivers will pass through more than 20 active work zones between Portland and Medford in 2007.

At TripCheck.com, visitors can access current construction updates, view the latest road conditions via road cameras, get winter travel updates, and find tips on how to travel by bus, rail or ride-share.