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## Highway department needs workers

Highway construction companies say they are having trouble filling all the jobs they have open, and state officials are trying to help.

An orientation on highway construction jobs is scheduled for 1 to 4 p.m. Friday at the Oregon Department of Transportation's Materials Lab at 800 Airport Road SE in Salem.

The orientation session will help candidates meet apprenticeship requirements to enter the heavy-highway construction labor pool for private construction contractors. Those requirements include academic and skills testing, registration in a job database and viewing an ODOT-produced video that helps prepare people for a career in highway construction.

"The ultimate goal of the Workforce Development Program is to provide Oregonians with the skills to maintain well-paying, sustainable careers," said ODOT Office of Civil Rights Manager Michael Cobb.

Job-seekers interested in attending the orientation session should call Rick Whelan at (503) 986-4356 to register.

Workers are needed in large part because of the 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act, which is repairing and replacing hundreds of bridges in the state, as well as paving city and county roads, improving and expanding interchanges, adding new capacity to the state highway system and removing freight bottlenecks.

— Don Currie

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