

# ORIENTATION PREPARES WORKERS

By ODOT  
 Special to the Press

Individuals interested in careers in highway construction are encouraged to attend an orientation offered by the Oregon Department of Transportation's Southern Oregon Workforce Alliance. The orientation will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 21, at The Job Council, 688 Market St., Room 6, in Medford.

Skilled highway construction workers are in demand in southern Oregon and across the state as contractors working for ODOT repair or replace hundreds of bridges through the \$1.3 billion OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program. The orientation session will help candidates meet apprenticeship requirements to enter into the heavy-highway construction labor pool and qualify for jobs with private construction contractors throughout the state. Those requirements include academic and skills testing, registration in a job database and viewing an ODOT-produced video designed to prepare people for a career in highway construction.

The orientation is part of the agency's implementation of its Workforce Development Plan, designed to expand the number of qualified people—especially women and minorities—available to work on highway projects.

The Southern Oregon Workforce Alliance is made up of representatives from state, county and city agencies; local service providers;

women and minority groups; contractors; construction firms; and Joint Apprenticeship Training Committees.

"The ultimate goal of the Workforce Development Plan is to provide Oregonians with the skills to maintain well-paying, sustainable careers," said ODOT Office of Civil Rights Manager Michael Cobb. "We strongly encourage people, especially women and minorities, to take advantage of this opportunity to develop a career and increase their earning power while helping build Oregon's transportation infrastructure."

The Job Council is located on Market Street in Medford, just east of Biddle Road. It is not necessary to register for the event, but if you have questions or would like more information please contact Kathy McKee, The Job Council employment counselor, at (541) 842-2579.

The OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program is part of the Oregon Department of Transportation's 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act. OTIA funds will repair or replace hundreds of bridges, pave and maintain city and county roads, improve and expand interchanges, add new capacity to Oregon's highway system, and remove freight bottlenecks statewide. About 17 family-wage jobs are sustained for every \$1 million spent on transportation construction in Oregon. Each year during the OTIA program, construction projects will sustain about 5,000 family-wage jobs.