



## Oregon bridge projects begin in spring 2008

More than 2 million visitors drive through the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area each year — making it one of the most frequently visited natural attractions in the nation.

I-84 provides numerous scenic views including Bridal Veil Falls and Multnomah Falls. It's also an economic lifeline for communities in the Gorge and surrounding areas. That's why it's a top priority for the Oregon Department of Transportation and its OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program to keeping traffic moving.

In the Gorge, there are six bridge project "bundles" that will go undergo construction as part of the bridge program beginning this spring. A total of 19 bridges will be repaired or replaced. (A seventh bundle, with a bridge repaired near Mosier and another near The

Dalles, has already been completed.)

Local residents have been pivotal in design decision making. By attending public open houses citizens were able to help ODOT refine design elements ranging from abutments and railings to landscaping and wildlife crossings.

There will be an open house regarding the I-84 Mosier bridge construction on Thursday, Feb. 21, from 5 p.m.-7:30 p.m. at the Mosier Community School.

The latest project newsletter from ODOT detailing the upcoming construction work will arrive in mailboxes next week, and ODOT has also launched a new Web site about the Gorge construction: [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/ColumbiaGorge/](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/ColumbiaGorge/).