

# Hillsboro Argus

Argus Opinion

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## Holiday Brings Travel, Road Work

This Memorial Day marks the kickoff of one of the busiest construction seasons in Oregon history. Work on the Oregon Department of Transportation's OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program has shifted into high gear: 63 bridges are currently under construction and another 55 start later this year. Already, 56 highway bridges have been completed since the program's 2003 start.

Across the state, you'll see ODOT workers and Oregon contractors working hard to repair, replace and modernize vital highway corridors and bridges. Travelers on Interstate 5 alone will pass through 19 active work zones between Portland and Medford.

I can't overstate how important this work is for Oregonians. Our highway system is the lifeline that keeps our state moving forward. Our economic competitiveness depends on our ability to move people, goods and services more efficiently. Our commitment is "better roads ahead," and I'm happy to say we're seeing the statement's truth every day.

No travelers, especially

people on vacation, want to be slowed down on the way to their destination. That's why we've taken steps, wherever possible, to schedule work at night or during off-peak hours. We've also coordinated projects so truckers, commuters and visitors get where they are going smoothly and safely.

Still, it's possible to face delays. To minimize inconvenience, ODOT has two great resources for up-to-date information about construction and traffic. Be prepared before you hit the road: Visit [www.TripCheck.com](http://www.TripCheck.com) or call 511.

And, when you see our construction teams, remember they are working to make Oregon's roads and bridges safer for you. So please, slow down in construction work zones.

**Matt Garrett, Director**  
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Transportation*