



Graphic courtesy of Oregon Department of Transportation

THIS MAP shows the scope of construction work planned in the Columbia Gorge through 2010. The first projects are at Mosier and Cascade Locks this summer.

Mosier bridge to be replaced

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Summer months often mean construction work and this year that includes Interstate 84.

Engineers and public affairs representatives shared details Thursday night on planned roadwork during an open house at Mosier Community School.

The first project starts in July or August as the Oregon Department of Transportation begins replacement of the I-84 Mosier Creek Bridge, which spans the creek east of the Mosier exit. That project marks the continuation of several years of road work planned for the Columbia Gorge.

ODOT will begin in Mosier by building a temporary bridge and estimates are the project will take a little longer than two years. The I-84 Mosier Bridge, along with several other bridges in the Gorge, has been aging for a number of years and is

worn out.

In 2001, inspections of bridges throughout the state including in the Gorge revealed the structures had diagonal tension cracks. The legislature passed the Oregon Transportation Investment Act III (OTIA) in 2003, a \$2.46-billion package including \$1.3 billion to repair and replace bridges on the state highway system.

The cost for the I-84 Mosier phase is projected at more than \$10 million with the bulk of the funding coming from OTIA monies and the rest from other state and federal highway funds. The bid for the Mosier project won't be awarded until May 2008.

The work will close a footpath under the bridge and include some temporary lane closures on I-84. The agency has planned for some night-time work as well.

Following the work at Mosier, the next most intensive stretch planned for this year on I-84 is between Cascade Locks

and Hood River.

Another open house is planned for April 29, from 5-7 p.m. at the Cascade Locks School. The work should begin this spring or summer.

The scope of the Cascade Locks-Hood River phase includes multiple bridges. ODOT will replace the two east- and west-bound I-84 bridges over the connector to Highway 30 in Cascade Locks.

Repair work includes five bridges between Cascade Locks and Hood River: the I-84 west and east bridges that cross Moody Street, I-84 Herman Creek Connector, and at Hood River the milepost 63 bridges that include the Frontage Road (Second Street) bridge and eastbound I-84 over the Union Pacific Railroad.

This phase's project budget is \$16.9 million for design and construction and all of this segment's funding comes from OTIA. Construction is expected to last until mid-2010.