

# The Register-Guard

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SECTION **D**

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## City/Region

Classified **D5**

### I-5 bridges in Goshen next up for rebuild

Reconstruction of two spans  
will start in April and will  
take almost 2½ years

By **GREG BOLT**  
The Register-Guard

Oregon's state-spanning string of bridge reconstruction projects on Interstate 5 is moving ahead in Lane County with the next job a pair of crossings in Goshen.

The project will replace a single bridge over Franklin Boulevard and the railroad tracks with a pair of new bridges, as well as replace two nearby bridges over Highway 58. Work on the roadways is expected to start in April and take almost 2½ years.

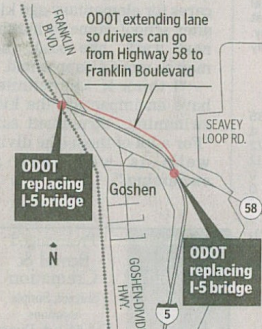
The work is part of the 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act aimed at fixing hundreds of old bridges, expanding interchanges and tackling paving and other needs. Similar bridge projects are planned up and down I-5, including a current job in Creswell and future work on the Willamette River and McKenzie River crossings in Eugene.

Like the Creswell project, the Goshen bridges will be staged to keep two lanes of traffic in each direction using lane shifts. Work that requires temporary lane closures, such as

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#### Goshen bridge work

State to begin reconstruction in spring.



### Bridges: McKenzie spans also planned

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paving, will be done at night.

"So many goods are transported by truck rather than rail that we could literally hurt the economy if we shut down a major arterial," said Joe Harwood, a spokesman for the state Department of Transportation. "We'll stage it in such a way that we maintain full mobility."

The project involves replacing the current single bridge over Franklin Boulevard and the Central Oregon & Pacific Railroad tracks with two parallel spans and also replacing the two existing bridges over Highway 58. The new bridges will be wider than the current ones to accommodate growth.

The new bridges will be higher to allow better truck clearance. The ramp configuration at Franklin Boulevard will not change, but the work will improve the sight lines for drivers turning onto Franklin Boulevard.

The project also will extend the merge lane from Highway 58 along northbound I-5, all the way to the Franklin exit off I-5. That will allow vehicles from Highway 58 heading for the Franklin exit to avoid merging into freeway-bound traffic.

The Goshen bridges will be built by Hamilton Construction of Springfield. The contract includes reconstruction of the two I-5 bridges over the McKenzie River with a total cost of \$67.6 million.