

## ODOT looks to train new workers

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*Submitted by Oregon Department of Transportation*

Individuals interested in careers in highway construction are encouraged to attend an orientation offered by the Oregon Department of Transportation's Mid-Willamette and Coastal Workforce Alliance. The orientation will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday, May 9, at ODOT's Materials Lab Large Conference Room, 800 Airport Road S.E. in Salem.

Skilled highway construction workers are in demand in the Salem area and across the state as ODOT repairs or replaces 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 the heavy-highway construction labor pool for private construction contractors across the state. Those requirements include academic and skills testing, registration in a job database and viewing an ODOT-produced video that helps to prepare people for a career in highway construction.

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

The Mid-Willamette and Coastal 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 Program 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 bridges and highways."

Job-seekers interested in attending the orientation session should call Rick Whelan at (503) 986-4356 to register.

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