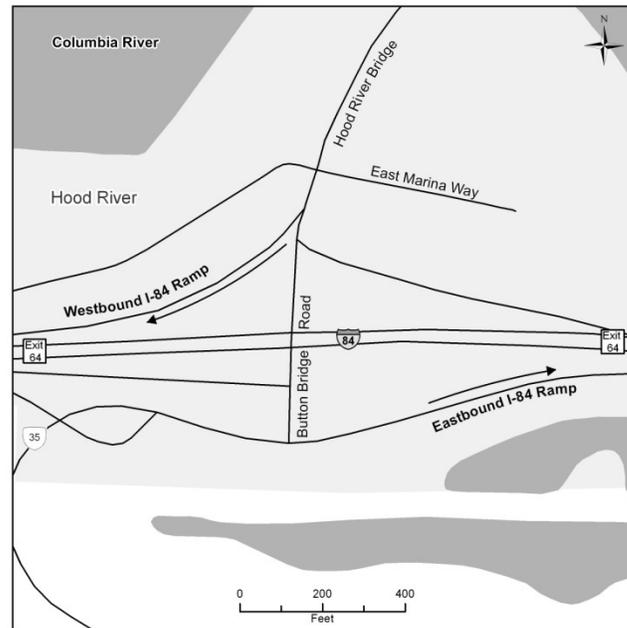


Project information:

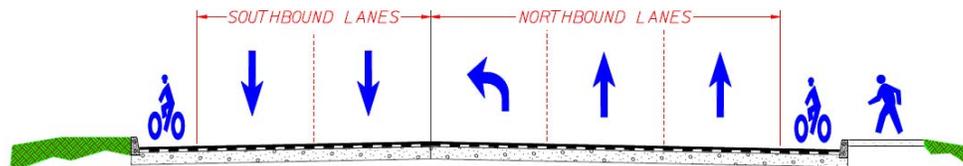
The Oregon Department of Transportation is conducting design work to replace one bridge on Interstate 84 at exit 64 in Hood River and to improve the interchange beneath the current bridge. The bridge and interchange are located in the east end of Hood River, where the freeway passes over Button Bridge Road, which is the connector to Highway 35.



Built in 1953, the Hood River interchange bridge is being replaced to safely accommodate heavy commercial trucks and keep traffic moving along the I-84 corridor.

To reduce congestion and increase safety beneath the bridge, ODOT will widen Button Bridge Road to five lanes, with bike lanes in both directions. A sidewalk will be added to the east side of the roadway. Additionally, three traffic signals will be added to Button Bridge Road at the intersections of Marina Way and at the eastbound and westbound ramps to I-84. ODOT will also widen two of the highway ramps. Details follow below.

Button Bridge Road will be widened from Marina Way, near the Hood River Bridge, to the eastbound I-84 ramp south of the I-84 exit 64 bridge.

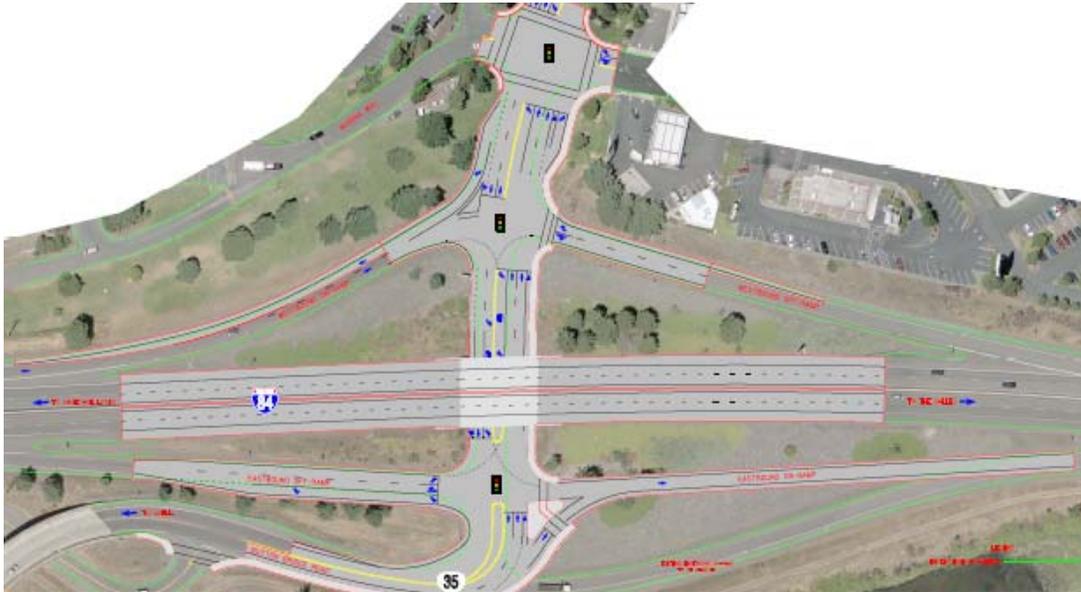


- Two of the five lanes will be directed northbound toward the Hood River Bridge.
- One of the five lanes will operate as a left turn lane for northbound traffic.
- Two of the five lanes will be directed southbound toward State Street and Highway 35.
- The addition of bike lanes in both directions will provide opportunities for multi-modal transportation choices.

- The addition of a sidewalk on the eastside of the roadway will increase safety for pedestrians.

To improve traffic flow through the interchange, which captures traffic from I-84, Highway 35 and the Hood River Bridge, ODOT will add three traffic signals. Timing for the new traffic signals will be coordinated to provide for quick and safe travel. As shown in the image below, signals will be added at the following intersections:

- Button Bridge Road and Marina Way near the Hood River Bridge.
- Button Bridge Road at the I-84 westbound ramp, north of the I-84 exit 64 bridge.
- Button Bridge Road at the I-84 eastbound ramp, south of the Interstate 84 exit 64 bridge.



The project will also realign the eastbound I-84 entrance ramp intersection with Button Bridge Road. The proposed entrance ramp will be located across from the eastbound I-84 exit ramp. This improvement will allow for addition of a traffic signal.



The proposed eastbound I-84 entrance ramp realignment, outlined above with a dashed line, will make for an easier connection to the freeway. It is part of a multi-pronged approach to reduce congestion and increase safety at this interchange.

Also to reduce congestion, the project will widen the eastbound off-ramp and provide one dedicated left turn lane, one combined left turn and through lane, and one dedicated right turn lane. The project will also widen the westbound on-ramp to two lanes.

What is the project timeline?

ODOT anticipates design work will be completed in fall 2009. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2010 and be completed in late 2011.

What is ODOT doing to ensure safe travel and minimal delays during construction?

To minimize traffic impacts, ODOT will coordinate the construction schedule with other nearby maintenance and construction projects along the I-84 corridor. ODOT anticipates I-84 exits 63 and 64 will remain open during construction, except for temporary work closures. Traffic will be maintained on Button Bridge Road except during temporary work closures. Through traffic will be maintained on I-84 during construction.

Outreach to date

At the onset of the design phase of this project, in fall 2008, ODOT began outreach to businesses and associations located in the immediate vicinity of the project and/or those that have a high potential to be impacted by construction.

Additionally, ODOT hosted a Public Open House at the Hood River Middle School Library on Nov. 13, 2008. Prior to the Open House, ODOT reached out to area students, leading a hands-on activity about traffic management for three classes at Hood River Middle School.

Opportunities for involvement

ODOT anticipates hosting another Open House in fall 2009. ODOT will also continue to reach out to affected businesses and property owners. Do you know someone who may benefit from speaking with ODOT about this project? Please let us know. Contact information is listed below.

For more information, please contact

- Mike Mason, ODOT Region 1 community affairs, (503) 731-8246; Michael.W.Mason@odot.state.or.us.
- Lois D. Cohen, Lois D. Cohen Associates, (503) 332-4869, lois@loisdcohen.com.