



MORE INSIDE

Turn the page to find more photos and information about completed bridge construction in the Columbia River Gorge.

REMINDER: CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES AT TROUTDALE

50 mph speed limit remains in effect on I-84 near Sandy River: Freeway bridge construction through the Troutdale area means shifting lanes, merging traffic, active equipment and busy workers. To help keep everyone safe, a speed limit reduction to 50 mph is posted in the area of exits 17 and 18. The speed limit is being enforced by the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and will be in effect until the completion of the project in 2014.

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

Here comes winter weather! Prepare for challenging driving conditions by visiting www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/winterdriving.shtml.

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TWO GORGE BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS WRAPPING UP

Motorists in the eastern half of the Columbia River Gorge are seeing two significant bridge replacement projects draw to a conclusion. Only one project, on Interstate 84 at the Sandy River (see sidebar), will remain in construction after this fall.

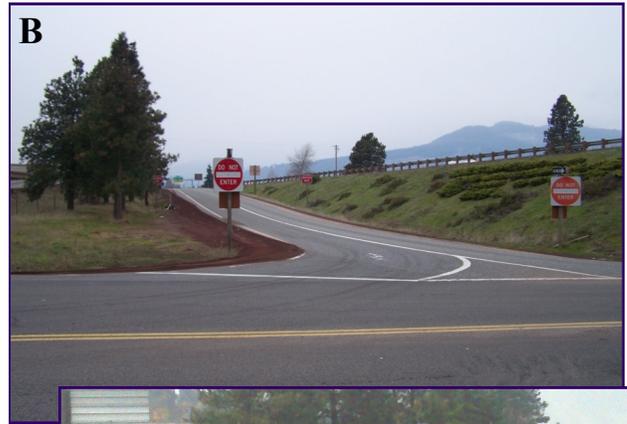
Construction of the new freeway bridge over Fifteen Mile Creek, near The Dalles Dam, began in the summer of 2009. Crews kept one lane of traffic open in each direction while building the new bridge one half at a time. Contractors also repaired the Spanish Hollow Bridge on U.S. 97, 2.5 miles south of Biggs Junction.

At exit 64 in Hood River, ODOT contractors are wrapping up construction of a freeway bridge that replaces a bridge originally constructed in 1953. Several interchange improvements, including traffic signals and additional ramp capacity, were also implemented as part of this project. See inside this issue for some before-and-after views of this very busy bridge and interchange.

“We’re happy to report that both of these projects are coming in under budget,” said Jyll Smith, ODOT public affairs representative. “These new bridges will better meet the demands of modern traffic loads. We appreciate the public’s input and patience as we put the improvements in place.” **T**



Traffic shifted temporarily to the eastbound structure while the new westbound bridge over Fifteen Mile Creek was built. The historic Seufert Viaduct Bridge stands just to the south.



COMPLETED BRIDGE PROJECTS DOT INTERSTATE 84 THROUGH THE GORGE



Milepost 39: Moffett Creek



Milepost 70: Mosier C

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BEFORE AND AFTER: EXIT 64—HOOD RIVER

Although some roadside work such as landscaping and lighting is continuing, the freeway bridge replacement at exit 64 in Hood River is complete. Compare these before-and-after photos:

- A. The old bridge allowed just two lanes to pass beneath it, with narrow shoulders and no accommodation for pedestrians. The new bridge spans five lanes, as well as bicycle lanes and an ADA-compliant sidewalk.
- B. Ramp intersections now feature signals with traffic sensors. The eastbound off-ramp, previously just one lane for left turns and one lane for right, now totals three lanes, including two available for turning north toward Marina Way and the interstate toll bridge.
- C. Fine in its day, the 1953 bridge had reached the end of its useful life. Like other new bridges in the Gorge, the replacement bridge features design aesthetics influenced by the Historic Columbia River Highway. ODOT's I-84 Corridor Strategy includes design guidelines for abutments, railings, façades and more, with context-sensitive color and design schemes.

Milepost 63: Repair bridge over Jaymar Road at Hood River



Milepost 45: Cascade Locks



Creek

This is the last newsletter; sign up for email info



This is the last printed Gorge Bridges Newsletter! To be added to our I-84 Columbia River Gorge Bridges mailing list, send your email address to i84crgbridges@gmail.com. Email news will focus on the freeway bridges under construction at the Sandy River.

After a busy summer, work is coming to a close on two major freeway bridge replacement projects in the Columbia River Gorge. See inside to learn what construction crews have been up to recently and what drivers can expect in the coming months. Learn more about construction projects in the Gorge by visiting www.ODOTGorgeProjects.org.

For updated information on freeway work and current travel information throughout Oregon, visit www.tripcheck.com or call the Oregon road report at 511 or (800) 977-6368. Follow ODOT on Twitter @OregonDOT.

The OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program is part of the Oregon Department of Transportation's 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act. OTIA funds are repairing or replacing hundreds of bridges, paving and maintaining city and county roads, improving and expanding interchanges, adding new capacity to Oregon's highway system and removing freight bottlenecks statewide. Based on recent estimates, about 11 family-wage jobs are sustained for every \$1 million spent on transportation construction in Oregon. The 10-year program will sustain approximately 23,000 jobs.