



Oct. 6, 2009

For more information:

Christine Miles, 503-731-8265, Christine.L.Miles@odot.state.or.us

Kimberly Dinwiddie, 503-731-8281, Kimberly.Dinwiddie@odot.state.or.us

Oregon 217 Modernization Project: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/hwy217/>

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Reminder: rock blasting for widening on OR 217

Expect delays on OR 217 and U.S. 26 between 11 p.m. and midnight

Tonight, Oct. 6, tomorrow, Oct. 7, and Thursday, Oct. 8 between 11 p.m. and midnight, the contractor for the Oregon Highway 217 Modernization Project plans to blast rock. In addition to the rock blasting this week, the contractor is scheduled to blast rock on the following dates: **Oct. 13, Oct. 15, Oct. 20, Oct. 21, Oct. 22, Oct. 27 and Oct. 29. One blast is scheduled each night between 11 p.m. and midnight.** Each blast is composed of a series of blasts milliseconds apart, lasting a few seconds total.

The rock blasting will take place along Highway 217 northbound south of the Wilshire Street overpass. Blasting is required on the project to fracture and remove a layer of rock in order to build a new highway lane and retaining walls.

To protect motorists, traffic will be stopped in the area during the blasting. Traffic will be stopped to those traveling northbound on Highway 217 from Walker Road to U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway) and the on-ramps from U.S. 26 to Highway 217 southbound for at least 20-minutes. During the blasting, motorists traveling on local surface streets in the immediate area —S.W. Wilshire Street, the connector street between S.W. Park Way and S.W. Wilshire and the intersection of S.W. Wilshire Street at S.W. 98th will be stopped. Additionally, motorists using on-ramps OR 217 from Walker Road, Wilshire Street, and Barnes Road will be stopped. Once the blasting is complete and the area is safe, the traffic stops will be lifted and traffic flow will be restored.

Blasting will continue throughout the two-year project during the hours of 11 p.m. to midnight. ODOT will issue traffic advisories to warn motorists and neighbors of future blasting. The blasts are designed to minimize sound and vibration. Some people may hear the blasts or feel vibrations in the immediate vicinity of the blast; however, the sound will be muffled and should not travel far. People in the immediate vicinity of the blast will hear multiple warning sirens prior to each blast.

Blasting is weather dependent and will be rescheduled in the event of heavy rainfall. The blasting dates shown above could be cancelled if the contractor determines the condition of the rock does not require blasting and alternate methods can be used to remove the rock.

##ODOT##