



Oregon Department of Transportation

# NEWS RELEASE

**Region 1** *Columbia, Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas  
and Hood River Counties*

---

Dec. 8, 2006

06-096 R1

**For More Information:**

**Shawn Uhlman**, 503-731-8265, [Shawn.D.Uhlman@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Shawn.D.Uhlman@odot.state.or.us)

**Mike Mason**, 503-731-8246, [Michael.W.Mason@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Michael.W.Mason@odot.state.or.us)

Regional Projects Website: [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1)

## **HIGHWAY 35 REOPENS FRIDAY, DEC. 8**

The Oregon Department of Transportation has revised the planned reopening date for a section of Highway 35, which had been severely damaged by debris flows Nov. 6 and Nov. 7. **The highway will reopen to traffic Friday, Dec. 8 at 4 p.m.** – a full week ahead of the original estimate of Friday, Dec. 15. ODOT was scheduled to reopen the highway Saturday, Dec. 9 at 5 a.m., but continued good weather has allowed crews to complete all lane paving and striping work earlier than planned.

ODOT's contractor, Tri-State Construction, Inc., has been working 12-hour days since Tuesday, Nov. 14 to rebuild the 2.5-mile section of Highway 35 that was completely washed out. Construction highlights:

- At the height of construction, more than 50 pieces of equipment were in use (excavator, bulldozers, loaders, etc.)
- There were also 50 dump trucks operating in the construction zone
- Workers have moved approximately 400,000 cubic yards of material

Although the road will reopen late today, Friday, ODOT estimates the work to be 50% complete. Significant work will continue off the highway during the coming months. This work should not affect traffic.

--more--

**Sno-Park status**

All of the Sno-Parks located on Highway 35 will be open this afternoon with the exception of White River West and Boy Scout Camp.

**What Happened**

On Monday, Nov. 6 and Tuesday, Nov. 7, a massive debris flow and sudden changes to the paths of several rivers on the east side of Mt. Hood severely damaged Highway 35. About 2.5 miles of the road were washed out, undercut and/or covered by massive boulders (some larger than pickup trucks) and mud. An estimated 2 million cubic yards of material—mud, trees and boulders—washed down the mountainside.

**Impact**

The White River dug a new channel through the road, burying the old channel (both over and under the White River Bridge) in mud and boulders and completely washing out a section of the highway north of the bridge. Washouts and undercuts also occurred at Clark and Newton Creeks and along the East Fork of the Hood River.

**##ODOT##**