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For More Information:

Shawn Uhlman, 503-731-8265, Shawn.D.Uhlman@odot.state.or.us

Mike Mason, 503-731-8246, Michael.W.Mason@odot.state.or.us

U.S. 26 LANDSLIDE UPDATE

The contractor hired by the Oregon Department of Transportation to remove the loose rock and debris from the exposed cliff along the shoulder of westbound U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway) is wrapping up its operation. Now that the loose material has been removed, ODOT geologists and engineers and a geotechnical consulting firm have identified two areas within the landslide that require additional work. The first area is along the ridgeline on top of the slide. Much of the material below the ridge slid away. The second area is the large wedge of soil and rock that remained intact during the slide. As a result, **the right lane of westbound U.S. 26 will remain closed until work on the identified areas is complete.** A temporary rock fall screen has been placed at the top of the slope to mitigate the hazard of falling rock or debris.

In addition to studying the location where the slide occurred, ODOT and the consultant will review the corridor between the Vista Ridge Tunnel and the zoo to identify other areas that may require proactive action. ODOT is also sharing information with the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) and Portland State University.

History of the landslide

Wednesday, March 28 at approximately 9 a.m. a landslide occurred along westbound U.S.26 just west of the Vista Ridge Tunnel. About 100 cubic yards of material slid on to the highway. The slide, consisting of dirt, rock and numerous large trees, closed all westbound lanes of U.S.26 until 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. Since that time the westbound right lane has remained closed in order to create a work area for ODOT and contractor personnel.

##ODOT##