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

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Postponed: rock blasting for OR 217 project

Blasting scheduled to begin tonight will be on hold until further notice

**** The contractor for the OR 217 Modernization Project has postponed rock blasting scheduled to begin tonight and intermittently throughout the month of May. The contractor is performing additional exploratory drilling to determine areas that may require blasting. Once scheduled, the blasting will take place along OR 217 northbound near the Wilshire Street overpass.**

The work detailed below will be postponed until further notice:

The contractor for the OR 217 Modernization Project is scheduled to blast rock on the following dates: **May 5, May 7, May 12, May 13, May 14, May 19, May 20, May 21, May 26, May 27 and May 28, from 11 p.m. to midnight each night.** The blasting will take place along OR 217 northbound near 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 slowed down or stopped in the area during the blasting. There will be a 20-minute rolling slowdown for motorists traveling northbound on OR 217 from Allen Boulevard to U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway). During the blasting, motorists traveling on local surface streets in the immediate area—S.W. Park Way, S.W. Wilshire Street and S.W. Baltic Avenue—and motorists using on-ramps to northbound OR 217 from Allen Boulevard, Canyon Road, and Walker Road will be stopped. Once the blasting is complete, the rolling slowdown and traffic stops will be lifted and traffic flow will be restored.

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In addition to the May dates, intermittent 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.

One blast is scheduled each night and is composed of a series of blasts milliseconds apart, lasting a few seconds total. 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.

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##