



Feb. 14, 2008

08-013 R1

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## **Mosier open house to preview new bridge designs in the Gorge**

MOSIER — Contractors for the Oregon Department of Transportation will preview design and construction plans for bridge replacements and repairs along Interstate 84 at an open house on Feb. 21 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Mosier Community School, 1204 First Avenue.

The open house will feature the Mosier Creek bridge replacement on I-84 in Mosier set to begin this summer, the 15 Mile Creek bridge replacement in The Dalles and the Spanish Hollow Creek bridge repair on U.S. 97 south of Biggs Junction scheduled for construction in 2009.

### **Special interactive workshop for students**

Before the open house, fifth and sixth grade students at Mosier Community School will learn about their local bridge project through an interactive workshop led by the design team.

Students will visit the Mosier Creek Bridge to learn about the important natural habitats at the site. Students will also build bat boxes that will be installed to enhance and protect the existing bat population at the bridge. The student workshop is being coordinated with the school's innovative GISMO museum which will house an exhibit of the students' work. The bat boxes will also be on display at the open house for the community to see.

In all, 21 Gorge bridges along I-84 from the Sandy River to east of The Dalles will be upgraded by 2012. The Mosier Creek Bridge is the first replacement project to go forward in the Gorge. Future open houses in Hood River, Cascade Locks and Troutdale will highlight additional Gorge bridge work coming to bid over the next two years.



*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 will repair or replace hundreds of bridges, pave and maintain city and county roads, improve and expand interchanges, add new capacity to Oregon's highway system, and remove freight bottlenecks statewide. About 17 family-wage jobs are sustained for every \$1 million spent on transportation construction in Oregon. Each year during the OTIA program, construction projects will sustain about 5,000 family-wage jobs. Slow down! Better roads ahead: Oregon remains open for business as ODOT modernizes the state's critical transportation lifelines. Know before you go: dial 511 or visit [TripCheck.com](http://TripCheck.com).*

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