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Curve alignment project begins on U.S. 26

All lanes on the Sunset Highway will be open on weekends for travel to the coast

Kerr Contractors of Woodburn is starting work on a \$4.6 million project on U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway) 26 miles east of U.S. 101. Work will include realigning a curve near Salmonberry and paving an 11-mile stretch of U.S. 26 between Military Creek Road (milepost 26) and Wolf Creek (milepost 34).

The curve alignment between Salmonberry and Viewpoint is sharp and tight. The new alignment will straighten the curve and reduce the risk of crashes. Motorists will notice a smoother ride to the coast when the project is complete.

Project Schedule

This September the contractor will start grinding the existing asphalt and begin paving. Paving work is weather dependent and the contractor plans to pave and stripe all 11 miles before fall weather sets in.

Currently work is underway to move more than 100,000 cubic yards (10,000 dump trucks full) of earth to realign the curve near Salmonberry. The earthwork will continue through the fall. When favorable weather conditions allow, the contractor will connect the new alignment to the existing highway.

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Traffic Impacts

ODOT's goal is to keep traffic moving to the coast while work takes place. **All travel lanes will be open for weekend travel to and from the coast. Most of the work requiring lane closures will take place during weeknights Sunday through Friday.** Some work will require daytime lane closures or flagging. During the paving and earthwork, these daytime lane closures will cause minimal impacts to travelers. ODOT inspectors will travel the corridor, monitor travel delays, and adjust flagging and lane closures as needed.

Connecting the new alignment near Salmonberry to the existing U.S. 26 alignment will require 24-hour flagging for a two-week period. The 24-hour flagging will take place from midnight Sunday to noon Friday. All lanes will open for weekend travel. Timing of this connection has not been determined.

Motorists heading to the coast can visit www.tripcheck.com or dial 511 to get updated road conditions.

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