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**\*\*REMINDER\*\***

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## **LANDSLIDE REPAIR WORK CLOSES WESTBOUND U.S. 26**

Contractor crews working for the Oregon Department of Transportation will soon perform additional material removal work on the landslide along a section of westbound U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway) just west of the Vista Ridge Tunnel. The slide occurred Wednesday, March 28. By Thursday, March 29, ODOT had hired a contractor to remove the loose debris from the exposed cliff. Once that loose material had been removed, ODOT geologists and engineers and a geotechnical consulting firm identified two areas within the slide that required additional work.

### **Work schedule and plan**

In order to safely remove the two identified areas within the landslide, **all westbound lanes of U.S. 26 between Interstate 405 and the Zoo interchange will be shut down at 11:45 p.m. Friday, April 13. The westbound lanes are scheduled to remain closed until 8 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 14.** The current work schedule is listed below. This schedule is weather dependent. Extreme weather conditions may force the work to be postponed.

- After the westbound lanes of the highway are closed, ODOT crews will move the concrete barrier out of the right lane
- During the overnight hours the excavator, which will be shipped in on three separate semi-trucks, will be assembled
- Between 6 a.m. and 7 a.m. material removal will begin. The excavation work will take 3-6 hours depending on type and quantity of material removed. Cranes supporting protective fencing will be positioned prior to the material removal work commencing

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- While the main excavation work is under way, crews will begin hauling the material away
- The excavator will be disassembled while material removal work continues
- Contractor personnel will again rappel down the hillside removing loose rock and debris
- ODOT crews will complete debris removal and clean up the westbound lanes
- The single lane closure will be reestablished and three westbound lanes will reopen

**There will be several temporary stoppages of eastbound U.S. 26 traffic during the excavation work.** Drivers should use caution and expect lengthy delays.

### **Detour routes and options**

Westbound motorists can utilize Interstate 5 to Highway 217, U.S. 30 to Cornelius Pass Road, Highway 99W, Beaverton-Hillsdale Highway or Burnside Street as alternate routes. Since westbound U.S. 26 averages 68,000 vehicles per day, all alternate routes will be very busy. Drivers are urged to be patient and expect delays.

Drivers planning to visit the Oregon Zoo on Saturday, April 14 are encouraged to consider taking TriMet buses or MAX trains. Zoo visitors can show their TriMet ticket at the Zoo for a discount on the admission price. For information on routes and schedules, visit: [www.trimet.org](http://www.trimet.org)

### **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##**