

## Highway 126 Newsletter or Insert Messages

For More Information: Steve Templin, Asst. Project Manager, (541) 744-8080  
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*NOTE: A shorter version follows.*

*Version A—Approx. 410 words*

### **ODOT project to improve pavement on 20 miles of Highway 126 near Mapleton**

*Travelers can expect up to 20-minute delays throughout the summer and fall*

An Oregon Department of Transportation project will improve a 20-mile section of pavement on Highway 126W that connects Eugene and Florence. The project stretches several miles on each side of Mapleton at milepoint 7, about four miles east of Cushman on the western end, to Siuslaw Road (milepoint 26.4) at the eastern end.

Travelers can expect 24-hour flagging and one-lane traffic between milepoint 8 and 11 (between Hanson Creek and Saunders Creek) through early July. Flagging, 24-hours a day, also will occur for retaining wall construction and bridge repair work intermittently through the fall. Delays of up to 20 minutes should be expected.

The remainder of the project will require ongoing one-lane closures both day and night. Flaggers will control traffic and, at times, pilot cars will guide vehicles through the construction zone. Delays will range from 10 to 20 minutes. Most work between Mapleton and the eastern boundary of the project should be completed by the end of October 2009.

Steve Templin, ODOT assistant project manager, asked that people plan extra time for trips during the next few months and to take extra caution driving in the work zones. "Many work zone crashes happen prior to the work area," he said. "Inattentive drivers and speeding drivers are the most common causes for work zone crashes," he added.

Templin recommended that people heading to or from the Reedsport area consider taking Highway 38 with I-5 access at Curtin.

Templin said the pavement in this section of Highway 126 is in poor condition. On portions of the project west of Mapleton, the roadbed has settled and is causing the highway to have a "roller coaster" effect, he said. The project will smooth these problem areas and provide for new pavement within the project limits. The project also will replace all guardrails within the boundaries, bringing them up to current safety standards.

Other aspects of the project include installation of retaining walls on both sides of the Peterson Tunnel, paving of bridge decks, repair of bridge drains, replacement of all signs and a new weigh station at milepoint 12, just west of the Park Creek Bridge.

Eugene-based Wildish Standard Paving submitted the winning low bid of approximately \$12 million for this project.

For updated information on the project and related delays, please visit ODOT's travel information Web site at [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com), or dial 511. Any project-specific questions should be directed to the ODOT Project Management office in Springfield at (541) 744-8080.

*Version B—Approx. 140 words*

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