



July 9, 2010

R3-14-10

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Ashland exit 14 bridge work kicks off Monday

Construction begins first on Interstate 5

ASHLAND – Construction begins Monday on a project to widen the bridge over Interstate 5 at exit 14. The south Ashland interchange connects I-5 to Highway 66 (Greensprings Highway).

The Oregon Department of Transportation contractor will start work by constructing a crossover detour in the median to maintain two lanes in both directions while the interstate's roadbed is lowered to improve vertical clearance for large loads.

Later in the fall and winter, work will begin on constructing foundations to widen the bridge. When complete the updated bridge will have two travel lanes, a center turn lane, bicycle lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the bridge. Roadway lighting, traffic signals and a short west side median will also be added. The bridge's new art deco design and landscaping was established in partnership with the City of Ashland. Work is scheduled through April 2012.

During construction, at least a single lane in each direction will be maintained on the bridge.

"The improvements will better accommodate today's traffic and enhance safety for all users, including bicyclists and pedestrians," said Dennis Steers, ODOT Public Service Representative who will be the liaison between the public and contractor.

The prime contractor on the total \$12.8 million project is Concrete Enterprises of Stayton.

The project is funded through the Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA III). The Oregon Department of Transportation's \$1.3 billion OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program is repairing and replacing hundreds of bridges across the state to ensure the unrestricted movement of freight and spur economic growth.

##ODOT##