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## Nighttime detours planned on Interstate 5 between Medford and Talent

MEDFORD — Beginning Monday, March 17, Interstate 5 traffic will detour on Highway 99 from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. on alternating nights to allow construction work across the highway.

I-5 traffic will detour six miles from Barnett Road (exit 27) to Talent (exit 21). Besides March 17, the dates will be Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup>, Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>, Monday the 24<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup>. March 31<sup>st</sup> will be held as an alternate date in case of weather delay.

The detour allows 40 beams to be set across both lanes of I-5. Each beam is 136 feet long, six feet tall and weighs 103,700 pounds. The manufacturing cost alone is \$1.07 million.

“These aren’t as big as the beams we set last year, but they’re still big enough to span the entire interstate,” said ODOT Project Manager Joe Thomas. “For an engineer, this is a pretty cool thing to watch.”

A \$70 million joint venture with the City of Medford, the South Medford Interchange project will improve safety and congestion in south Medford.

**(MEDIA NOTE:** Access will be limited during the beam set. If you want video and/or an interview, please contact ODOT PIO Gary Leaming at 541-774-6388.)

**##ODOT##**