



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

**Rogue Valley  
Public Affairs**

*Jackson and Josephine Counties*

For more information:

**ART ANDERSON**

**Area Manager**

Voice: (541) 774-6353

Fax: (541) 774-6349

[Arthur.H.Anderson@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Arthur.H.Anderson@odot.state.or.us)

**GARY LEAMING**

**Public Information Specialist**

Voice: (541) 774-6388

Fax: (541) 774-6349

[Gary.W.Leaming@odot.state.or.us](mailto:Gary.W.Leaming@odot.state.or.us)

**May 19, 2006  
06-53-R3**

## **Chairman Foster, Mayor Wheeler lead I-5 groundbreaking ceremony May 23**

### ***\$70 million South Medford Interchange project starts***

MEDFORD — A groundbreaking event is set for 10 a.m. Tuesday, May 23 to celebrate the start of the \$70 million South Medford Interchange project, the largest state project in southern Oregon since Interstate 5 was constructed.

The ceremony will be held at the intersection of Belknap and Center Drive in south Medford. Featured speakers are Oregon Transportation Commission Chairman Stuart Foster and Medford Mayor Gary Wheeler.

The Medford community, local government and the Oregon Department of Transportation have been working on the project for seven years.

The interchange project is designed to improve safety and congestion at the Barnett Road interchange area. By moving the interchange 1,900 feet to a new location, Barnett Road can function as an efficient east-west connector for local traffic.

Contractor Wildish Standard Paving of Eugene was awarded the winning bid of \$59.6 million. The project is expected to finish in 2009 or 2010.

The hallmark of the project will be the construction of a Single Point Urban Interchange that can effectively handle larger amounts of traffic.

**##ODOT##**

