



Oregon Department of Transportation

# NEWS RELEASE

**Region 4** *Wasco, Sherman, Gilliam, Jefferson, Wheeler,  
Deschutes, Crook, Klamath and Lake Counties*

November 14, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **US 97 Biggs Bridge Project Begins in December**

### **Complete Closure Begins Jan. 2**

The project to replace the US 97 Biggs Bridge concrete deck will begin in December. Complete closure of the bridge will begin January 2, 2008

Over the past several years, the bridge's deck has begun to crack and deteriorate, and it continues to worsen despite several maintenance projects.

In **December**, motorists can expect nighttime, single lane closures between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. During that time, delays will not exceed 20 minutes.

In **January**, a full closure of the bridge will begin. The bridge will remain closed until Memorial Day 2008 for replacement of the north and main spans of the deck . After Labor Day, the bridge will close again for the replacement of the bridge deck on the south end of the bridge.

As governing authority of the Bridge, the Washington State Department Of Transportation will hold an open house on Tuesday, December 4, to inform members of the affected communities about the work and associated traffic impacts.

**Tuesday, December 4, 2007**  
**4 p.m. - 7 p.m. (stop by anytime)**  
**Rufus Community Center**  
**304 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street**  
**Rufus, Ore.**

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For updated information on highway work and current travel information throughout Oregon, visit [www.tripcheck.com](http://www.tripcheck.com) or call the Oregon road report at 511 or 1-800-977-6368  
Visit the ODOT News Media Center at [www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM](http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM)

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During construction, detour routes will include US 197 The Dalles via I-84 or State Route 14, or crossing at the I-5 or I-205 Columbia River Bridges in Portland, or at I-82/US 395 from Umatilla OR to Plymouth WA. For affected commuters, carpool match information is available at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US97/BiggsBridge/travelerinfo](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US97/BiggsBridge/travelerinfo).

For more information about the Biggs Rapids – Sam Hill Memorial Bridge deck replacement project, visit the project page at:

[www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US97/BiggsBridge](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/US97/BiggsBridge).

The contractor will provide advance warning signs ahead of the construction area, including along I-84 near The Dalles and Biggs and as far south on Highway 97 as Highway 58 (Willamette Pass). Motorists should observe and adhere to the posted speed limits when driving through the work zone.

**##ODOT##**