



Oregon Department of Transportation

# NEWS RELEASE

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

December 6, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For More Information: Peter Murphy, Public Information Officer  
541-388-6224

## Motorists Urged To Avoid Biggs Junction

### I-84 @ Highway 97 Jammed

ODOT Region 4 is asking motorists to avoid the junction of US Highway 97 and I-84 at Biggs, Oregon due to severe congestion as a result of the closure of I-5 through Chehalis, Washington. Highway 97 crosses the Columbia River at this junction, via the Biggs Rapids Bridge.

ODOT District 9 (The Dalles) Manager Sam Wilkins describes the congestion at Biggs Junction as "severe", as cargo trucks that would normally travel on I-5 are instead using Highway 97 as their principal north-south transportation route. "It's important that we reduce non-essential travel for the duration of this crisis", says Wilkins "to help relieve congestion as much as possible where Interstate 84 and Highway 97 converge at Biggs."

ODOT is reporting that Interstate 5 remains closed in Washington State from mileposts 68 to 88 (the Chehalis and Centralia areas) due to floodwaters from the Chehalis River; WSDOT and ODOT advise that motorists will not be able to travel I-5 between Portland and Seattle for at least the next few days. The Interstate may be closed through the weekend.

**##ODOT##**