



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

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

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ODOT Readies for School in La Pine

BEND – As school opens in La Pine, ODOT is ready to help students cross busy US97 with a variety of “traffic calming” devices to help slow traffic in the busy highway corridor.

ODOT traffic managers are employing tools including portable variable message signs (VMS), new speed zone signs, and at least one radar speed trailer in an effort to get motorists to be aware of students crossing the highway.

“We’ve noticed an increase in foot traffic across US97 at 1st Street”, says ODOT Traffic Manager Joel McCarroll. He adds, “With more foot and bicycle traffic across the highway at 1st Street, it’s important that ODOT take further steps to insure everyone’s safety at that intersection.”

One step already taken is to trim vegetation along the highway as a method to alert southbound motorists to increased congestion as they approach La Pine.

Working with the Deschutes County Sheriffs Office, ODOT plans to analyze speed patterns at the intersection and, as conditions require, take additional steps to increase safety.

Among the steps being considered, ODOT can add markings on the highway to indicate increased congestion in the area, provide safety messages to students, and work with local business to increase safety awareness among drivers and pedestrians.

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