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Work resumes on Pendleton Exit 209 Ramp Improvement Project

PENDLETON, Ore. - The Oregon Department of Transportation's contractor Weaver Construction of La Grande has resumed activities at the I-84 Exit 209 Interchange in Pendleton where Southgate Drive (U.S. Highway 395) passes under the freeway. Work began last fall on the \$1 million project to install traffic signals for the eastbound off-ramp, construct new sidewalk and upgrade signage in the area. Motorists and pedestrians are advised to expect lane and sidewalk closures, flaggers and minor delays at the work site over the next few months. The project will improve safety at the interchange by creating signal controlled crosswalks and turning options at the eastbound off-ramp.

"The contractor is currently working along the side of the road and traffic impacts should be minimal through next week," said ODOT Construction Specialist Len Jeppeson. "Starting the week of April 7 they will be closing some sidewalks and one travel lane in each direction on Southgate Drive to facilitate construction of the signal bases and new sidewalks sections. Flaggers will be helping to direct traffic at times so please watch for and obey all construction traffic control signs."

The concrete bases for the new signals will be built on both sides of Southgate Drive near the bottom of the eastbound freeway off-ramp and on-ramp. The poles and traffic signals will be installed later.

"The eastbound off-ramp will also be widened to accommodate a right turn lane, with a stone embankment constructed on the south side of the off-ramp," Jeppeson said. "There will be quite a bit of construction activity in the area over the next couple of months, so we would appreciate everyone slowing down and driving with extra caution through this work zone."

ODOT is also encouraging motorists to use alternate routes if available, once construction activities gear up in April.

ODOT