

## 2011 ODOT REGION 5 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Like most years, 2011 was a busy one for ODOT with state crews and contractors resurfacing nearly 300 lane miles of pavement on Interstate 84, U.S. 20, U.S. 30, OR 201 and other eastern Oregon routes. Bridges were also repaired or replaced, sidewalks upgraded and dangerous intersections reconfigured to enhance safety.

**Interstate 84 resurfacing:** Over 200 lane miles of freeway were resurfaced this summer as part of three major I-84 paving projects between Baker City and Boardman. Sections of roadway were showing signs of deterioration and wheel track rutting. All major construction is now completed, however, some finish work remains that could lead to minor delays and lane closures at times through early November.

- North of Baker City a 10-mile section of freeway was resurfaced with concrete in the truck/slow lane and asphalt in the passing/fast lane. This project was originally scheduled to take two years, but the contractor completed it in just one. The work also included chip sealing a seven-mile section of freeway in passing/fast lanes only south of Baker City to help preserve the existing pavement surface. This project accounted for over 50 lane miles of pavement resurfacing.
- Near La Grande about 10 miles of I-84 was resurfaced in the eastbound and westbound truck/slow lane only. “The fast lanes are in pretty good shape, but there are some significant wheel track ruts and other deterioration in the slow lane along this stretch of freeway,” said ODOT Assistant Project Manager Mike Remily. This project was mostly constructed at night to reduce impacts to travelers.
- Further west, 30 miles of eastbound and westbound freeway received major resurfacing between the Stanfield Interchange at mile point 188 and Tower Road at mile point 159. To help alleviate traffic impacts to motorists, some of the work on this project was also constructed during nighttime hours.



*I-84 paving near Baker City 2011*

**U.S. 30 bridge repairs, U.S. 395 sidewalks, U.S. 20 intersection upgrades and local agency projects:** The bridge that connects U.S. 30 to westbound I-84 at Exit 259 near La Grande was repaired this summer, getting a new deck surface, structural support repairs and bridge rail upgrades. Work on this project is scheduled to be completed by mid November. On Pendleton’s south side ODOT’s contractors installed several blocks worth of new concrete sidewalks along U.S. 395 (Southgate). And, on U.S. 20 in Burns the intersection with Monroe Street was reconfigured to create a safer connection for motorists and pedestrians.

Another 2011 project in Union County is the construction of a parking area with informational panels at the historic Upper Perry Arch Bridge along U.S. 30, 10 miles west of La Grande. The circa 1924 concrete arch bridge was rehabilitated in 2009. It represents one of the few remaining structures in eastern Oregon designed by the state’s premier bridge engineer Conde B. McCullough. The new interpretive site and parking area will be completed by the end of November.

ODOT funds also went towards numerous local agency projects off the state highway system for the cities of Pendleton, Ontario, Canyon City, La Grande and others. Just about every eastern Oregon county also had transportation improvement projects in the works, including Union County’s Peirce Road project and Grant County’s multi-year Paulina – Izee Highway upgrade project.

**ODOT crews construct improvements on U.S. 20, U.S. 30, OR 207, OR 332 and OR 7:** In addition to contracted work, ODOT maintenance crews were out in force all summer tackling several important projects. In June maintenance crews chip sealed over 30 miles of U.S. 30 (Central Oregon Highway) west of Vale to help preserve and extend the useful life of the



existing pavement. State forces also resurfaced about six miles of highway on OR 207 (Diagonal Road in Hermiston) between Townsend Road and U.S. 730. In addition to the paving work, ODOT installed a new pedestrian controlled rapid flash beacon at a crosswalk in Hermiston near Good Sheppard Hospital. The strobe light effect of the beacon mounted on the crosswalk sign helps alert motorists that someone is in or near the crosswalk. On OR 7 west of Baker City ODOT widened a section of highway to build a much needed vehicle pull out area. A section of U.S. 30 south of Huntington that had been turned into a roller coaster ride by slide activity was also rebuilt to create a safer, smoother surface.

Bridge maintenance crews were on the job this summer constructing repairs to the U.S. 30 Burnt River Lime Bridge north of Huntington and replacing the OR 332 Hudson Bay Canal Bridge near Milton-Freewater with a 30-foot long box culvert.

These represent only a portion of the numerous transportation projects constructed over the past 12 months. More are scheduled for next year.

## ODOT ##