

Highway Anxiety: Eastern Oregon's Interstate 84

Just what makes driving I-84 through eastern Oregon a challenging wintertime experience? And, is the anxiety some motorists feel justified when compared to other freeway sections in the state?

Those question were answered via an in-depth, three part investigative report produced by the La Grande Observer, The Baker City Herald and the Bend Bulletin newspapers.

To find out what makes Pleasant Valley not so pleasant and to learn how this stretch of freeway will soon become more like Germany's autobahns, check out the full three-part series, plus additional graphics and information via the Web links below.



Part I: A dubious distinction

<http://www.lagrandeobserver.com/News/Local-News/A-dubious-distinction>

“The route through the Blues is infamous not only for its weather but also for its topography, which posed some of the more daunting challenges for 19th century pioneers in the ox-drawn covered wagons.”

“There’s nothing pleasant about it, at least during the winter.”

Part II: Uncommon Commute

<http://www.bakercityherald.com/Local-News/I-84-Series-Part-2-Uncommon-Commute>

“With an elevation of 4,028 feet above sea level, it is the second highest point on the freeway between Portland and Ontario.”

Part III: Reducing the Risks

<http://www.bakercityherald.com/Local-News/I-84-Part-3—Reducing-the-risk>

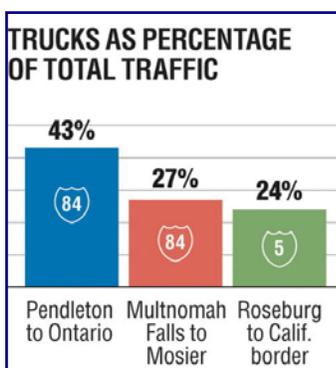
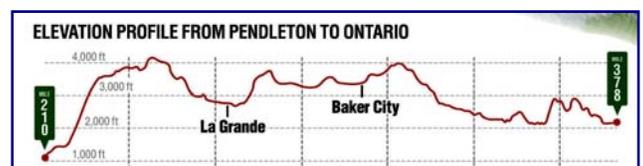
“Germany uses a similar system on some of its famous autobahns, and the tactic has proved to help reduce accidents.”

“ODOT is open to innovative solutions to Eastern Oregon’s unique winter challenges.”

Additional information and graphics

Anatomy of a highway: Graphical breakdown of eastern Oregon’s five most challenging sections of I-84.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/oregondot/8554195699/in/photostream>



Highway Comparisons: Gives a “by the numbers” assessment of other Oregon freeways.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/oregondot/8555303928/in/photostream>