



No matter who he's working for, HE'S WORKING FOR YOU!

As Oregon's \$2.5 billion 10-year project to upgrade its highways and bridges gains momentum, motorists will see about double the number of work zones as in previous decades. The Oregon Transportation Investment Act (OTIA) is an investment in the state's vital travel and freight lifelines.

For drivers, today's work-zone delay or detour is an investment in better roads for years to come. So the men and women on construction crews are working for you – whether they are city or county

projects, or the private contractors doing the majority of the state highway and bridge work under OTIA.

ODOT has set up the Mobility Operations Room to coordinate road work among all agencies – even in neighboring states – to keep traffic flowing. The system predicts and prevents two separate projects from setting up a traffic logjam.

Keeping traffic moving efficiently during road work also keeps road users and roadway work crews safe.

Work-zone safety is a community effort

A work zone is as safe as the rest of the roadway, when drivers follow detours, signs and other warnings.

But crashes in work zones tend to be more severe than in other areas of the same type of road. The presence of equipment and changes in the road can turn a minor driver error into a fatal error.

Yet the combined efforts of government agencies, contractors and road users (drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians) can keep work zones safe.

Work crews provide road users with warning signs, markers and lowered speed limits –to gain motorists' attention and keep them alert to changes in the roadway and to provide them more reaction time for unexpected changes and potential sudden moves by other drivers.

The color orange and reflective material – in signs, barrels, cones and the vests and helmets of

highway workers themselves – signal drivers all over Oregon and the rest of the nation to work zones. Even when crews are not actively engaged in road work, the presence of orange means that drivers need to pay attention to changes in the roadway, detours and work-zone speed limits.

Law enforcement plays another role in work-zone safety. Police regularly target work zones for traffic patrols – sometimes in unmarked vehicles – to protect the safety of both work crews and motorists. In Oregon, traffic fines are doubled in work zones.

Drivers and other road users, ultimately, are the key players in all traffic safety. Yet construction areas require drivers to pay special attention. Motorists can take safety into their own hands when they buckle up, slow down, stay alert, and don't drive under the influence of intoxicants. Focus should be on safety and keeping others safe, too.