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Two bridge projects completed in Gorge

Drivers on Interstate 84 in the Columbia River Gorge are seeing completed work and fewer construction sites along the freeway between Dodson and Hood River. Work began in May 2008 on the two projects that encompass 11 bridges.

Oregon Department of Transportation contractors Wildish Standard Paving Co. and Cascade Bridge replaced the eastbound freeway bridge over Moffett Creek at milepost 39. They also replaced freeway bridges in both directions at the east end of Cascade Locks. The new bridges incorporate design features such as stone-textured materials complementing their locations in the Columbia River Gorge.

In addition, crews repaired one bridge at Dodson, two bridges at Tanner Creek, two at the east end of Cascade Locks, one at Herman Creek and two near exit 63 in Hood River.

Two other major projects are underway on I-84 in the Gorge, at the Sandy River in Troutdale and at exit 64 in Hood River.

For additional information, visit www.ODOTGorgeprojects.org.

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The OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program is part of the Oregon Department of Transportation's 10-year, \$3 billion Oregon Transportation Investment Act. OTIA funds are repairing or replacing hundreds of bridges, paving and maintaining city and county roads, improving and expanding interchanges, adding new capacity to Oregon's highway system and removing freight bottlenecks statewide. Based on recent estimates, about 14 family-wage jobs are sustained for every \$1 million spent on transportation construction in Oregon. Through 2009, the bridge program has sustained more than 16,000 jobs. Overall, the 10-year program will sustain an annual average of approximately 2,300 jobs.