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For more information: Kimberly Dinwiddie, 503-731-8281, Kimberly.Dinwiddie@odot.state.or.us
Don Hamilton, 503-731-8265, Don.B.Hamilton@odot.state.or.us

Variable speed is in effect on U.S. 26 near OR 47

Drivers need to watch for changing speed limits on Sunset Highway

Starting Tuesday motorists will notice electronic speed limit signs on U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway) near Oregon Highway 47 (Nehalem Highway). **The speed limits in this area will change based on traffic volumes. Motorists need to be aware of the changing speeds, as Oregon State Police and the Washington County Sheriffs Office will enforce the posted speeds.**

The speed limit will vary from 30 to 50 mph, depending on the traffic volume. Speeds will not change more than once every 15 minutes.

U.S. 26 is a popular route to and from the Oregon coast and sees periods of heavy traffic, particularly on weekends in the summer months. During these periods, motorists on OR 47 turning left (eastbound) onto U.S. 26 are finding the maneuver unsafe and difficult.

Sensors installed in the road control the variable speed limit signs and will slow traffic on U.S. 26 in both directions as motorists approach OR 47 during periods of heavy congestion. Slowing traffic on the highway provides a safer environment for motorists turning left, reducing the potential for accidents.

This variable speed system is the first of its kind in Oregon, although variable speed limit signs have been implemented in many other states. ODOT is implementing this new technology as an interim solution to the turning problems at the U.S. 26 and OR 47 intersection (also known as Staley's Junction). Future plans call for a new freeway interchange at this location.

For more information visit: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/staleys/

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