



May 26, 2011

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

TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Memorial Day Weekend: Be alert, drive safe in work zones *ODOT highway projects will pause starting noon Friday through midnight Monday*

ODOT will suspend most construction work requiring lane closures over the busy Memorial Day weekend.

The hiatus will begin at noon Friday May 27 and continue until 12:01 a.m. Tuesday May 31. Work will continue in many areas, however. Oregon continues to experience high volumes of highway construction, with more than 40 projects between Hood River and the north coast alone.

Although actual roadwork will pause for the holiday weekend, work zones still will be marked and require slower speeds. Motorists should be aware of the possibility of highway shoulders being closed or construction activity taking place behind barriers during the weekend.

Even when workers are not present, all work zone speed limits still apply and fines are doubled. Drivers must still slow down and be alert for equipment, detours, temporary lane alignment changes and incomplete changes in the roadway. An inattentive driver is the greatest cause of work zone crashes.

ODOT is providing real time travel information for drivers on U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway) in the construction zone between Southwest 185th Avenue and Cornell Road. Drivers will notice real time reduced speed warnings based upon traffic volumes. This temporary work zone alert system is designed to reduce the chance of rear end collisions.

Please wear seatbelts and do not drink if you are driving. To reduce crashes, injuries and associated deaths during the holiday weekend, Oregon State Police, county sheriff offices, and city police agencies will step up enforcement efforts from Friday afternoon through Monday. For more information about the "Click It or Ticket" campaign for highway safety during the Memorial Day holiday, visit <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/safetybelts.shtml>

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