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For more information:

Don Hamilton, (503) 731-8265, Don.B.Hamilton@odot.state.or.us

Kimberly Dinwiddie, (503) 731-8281, Kimberly.Dinwiddie@odot.state.or.us

First weekend closure of I-84 starts July 12

The Banfield will close for paving on three weekends in one direction or another

The first of three weekend closures of Interstate 84 will begin at 10 p.m. Friday July 12 as the Banfield Freeway paving project moves into high gear.

This summer, ODOT will re-pave I-84 from Interstate 5 and Interstate 205, a distance of 5.5 miles. The pavement has become rutted and worn since it was last paved in 2002.

All work is weather dependent and may be rescheduled if there's rain.

Here is the closure schedule.

- 10 p.m. Friday July 12 to 5 a.m. Monday July 15 all eastbound lanes will be closed for grinding and paving.
- 10 p.m. Friday July 19 to 5 a.m. Monday July 22 all westbound lanes will be closed for grinding and paving.
- 11 p.m. Saturday Aug. 3 to 5 a.m. Monday Aug. 5 all westbound lanes will be closed for sign installation and restriping.

In addition to the weekend closures, the contractor is also allowed to use if needed four full nighttime closures of I-84 -- two in each direction, one direction at a time -- and nighttime single lane closures to complete the work. The Northeast Halsey Street overpass at 82nd Avenue also will be closed for two to three nights in July for paving and other repairs.

A variety of east-west alternate routes are available during the closures, including Lombard Street, Columbia Boulevard, Sandy Boulevard, Burnside Street and Powell Boulevard. Motorists are encouraged to plan ahead and map out an alternate route in advance, expect heavier traffic than usual on the alternate routes and take public transit when possible.

Travelers can get the latest information about changes to the schedule on the Web at www.i84paving.org or www.tripcheck.com; on the project hotline, in English and Spanish, 503-731-4663; by subscribing to the project email list at www.i84paving.org; by following ODOT and Facebook or Twitter and by monitoring local television, radio and print news.

The project will completely remove and replace the old pavement to improve safety and provide a smoother and quieter ride. The project will also pave I-84 ramps, install new signs, restripe the westbound merge with northbound I-5 to improve safety and traffic flow and repave the Northeast Halsey Street overpass at 82nd Avenue.

In 2011, I-84 carried an average of 171,700 vehicles a day at Northeast 33rd Avenue, making it the busiest stretch of road in Oregon.

Full, weekend closures in one direction allow ODOT to complete the project more quickly, more safely and at a lower cost. Working at night without the full closures would mean lane closures and greater disruptions for motorists over an extended period of time, would require about 32 nights of dry weather and would add at least \$1 million to the project cost. Using full weekend closures is also safer for construction crews and the motoring public and provides a better quality product that will last longer.

The project will be completed by the fall of 2013.

For more information, visit the project web site at www.i84paving.org.

##ODOT##