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Project coordinator honored for tunnel outreach

Kimberly Dinwiddie cited for community work during tunnel closure

Kimberly Dinwiddie, a project information coordinator for ODOT's Region 1, has been honored by the Public Relations Society of America for community outreach involving the closure earlier this year of the Dennis Edwards Tunnel in the Coast Range.

During an awards ceremony Thursday night at Nike in Beaverton, the PRSA-Portland Metro Chapter gave Dinwiddie a merit award in the Community Relations category for her work with during closure of the 71-year-old tunnel, a vital link on U.S. 26 (Sunset Highway) between Portland the north Oregon Coast.

Dinwiddie served as liaison with Seaside and Cannon Beach, communities most affected by the full overnight closures that were required in the rehabilitation project. The closures, which lasted from January to June, were plagued by technical problems, landslides, cold, wet weather and a few unscheduled re-openings for emergency medical service and the March 11 tsunami.

Dinwiddie, who also serves as one of the Region 1 public information officers, has been with ODOT since 2005.



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