



Feb. 11, 2010

10-11 R1

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Project Web page: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/iowaviaduct/>

## **I-5 Iowa viaduct construction prep begins**

### ***Contractor will remove trees and shrubs on west side of project area***

Contractors for the Oregon Department of Transportation next week will begin removing trees and shrubs in advance of a viaduct replacement project on Interstate 5 at Iowa Street in Southwest Portland.

The work will continue through March and will be visible to southbound I-5 motorists. Removing the trees and other vegetation on the west side of I-5 in the project area will allow a bridge contractor to build a detour structure and retaining walls as part of the upcoming project. The Iowa viaduct crosses a ravine at SW Iowa Street (milepost 298) just north of Terwilliger Boulevard (exit 297) and just south of Corbett Avenue (exit 298).

### **I-5/Barbur Boulevard Lane Closures; Trail Impacts**

**The contractor will close the right lane of I-5 south on Saturdays and Sundays, 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., through the March 27-28 weekend.** The lane closures will allow the contractor to cut and remove trees along the project corridor. During the right-lane closures, the left and center lanes of I-5 south will remain open. During the week, the contractor will not impact I-5 travel lanes, but will be visible to the motoring public. Please drive safely through the work zone, especially when workers are present.

**The contractor will close the right lane and shoulder of northbound Barbur Boulevard (Highway 99W) during weekday and weekend work hours through Wednesday, March 31.**

The lane closure will allow the contractor to access the work area. Motorists should watch for bicyclists on Barbur Boulevard. Please drive safely through the work zone.

**Flaggers intermittently will block access to the hiking trail that crosses underneath the Iowa St. Viaduct and connects Terwilliger Boulevard to Corbett Street.** These closures

should be brief and will take place only for safety reasons when a tree is being cut or equipment is moving across the path.

### **Viaduct replacement project background**

The columns, support superstructure and bridge deck of the I-5 viaduct at SW Iowa Street are in extremely poor condition. ODOT plans to replace the current viaduct with a new bridge that will maintain three lanes in each direction of I-5, with safer 12-foot shoulders, wider center medians, higher concrete barrier and retaining walls along the freeway.

A temporary detour bridge will be built to the west of the current viaduct to allow work to take place on the existing viaduct and still maintain three lanes of traffic in each direction during peak driving hours. Approximately 145,000 vehicles use this I-5 viaduct every day.

Bids on the I-5 Iowa Viaduct replacement project are due in early April. Work on the project is expected to begin in June 2010 and take up to three years to be completed. Design and construction costs are estimated to be approximately \$45.8 million. To view a map of the project area or to learn more about this viaduct replacement, visit the project Web site at <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/iowaviaduct/>.

### **Removal and replanting details**

During the three-year viaduct replacement project, approximately 1,000 trees will be removed from the entire project area. (Trees slated for removal range from a couple of inches in diameter to 50 inches in diameter, with 600 trees in the 6-to-12-inch diameter range). Approximately 650 trees will be removed in February and March from the west side of I-5 between the freeway and Barbur Boulevard.

ODOT has worked with the City of Portland's Bureau of Development Services and Bureau of Environmental Services on a tree replanting and mitigation plan. ODOT plans to:

- Plant 2,150 trees and 3,220 shrubs in the project area following completion of bridge construction;
- Install an irrigation system to help the replanted vegetation grow; and
- Remove ivy and other invasive species of vegetation from the project area

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