



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

Region 1 *Columbia, Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas and Hood River Counties*

Feb. 14, 2006

06-018 R1

For More Information:

Shawn Uhlman, 503-731-8265, Shawn.D.Uhlman@odot.state.or.us
Dave Thompson, 503-731-8263, David.H.Thompson@odot.state.or.us
Regional Projects Website: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1

CEDAR HILLS ON-RAMP REOPENS

Wednesday, Feb. 15 a contractor working for the Oregon Department of Transportation will reopen the on-ramp from northbound Cedar Hills Boulevard to westbound U.S. 26. The on-ramp was closed in June 2004 to allow the contractor to safely widen the U.S. 26 overpass crossing Cedar Hills Boulevard and add additional lanes, barrier and striping to the highway as part of the U.S. 26 Cornell Road to Highway 217 project. The Cedar Hills Boulevard on-ramp will reopen by approximately 5 p.m. Wednesday.

History of the project and the corridor

Work on this \$37 million project began in May 2004 and is expected to continue until fall 2006. Since 1992, ODOT has spent approximately \$280 million to fulfill the promises of the Westside Corridor plan—and make the Sunset Highway a safer roadway.

Westside Corridor Plan

The project is part of the overall Westside Corridor plan in partnership with the cities of Portland and Beaverton, TriMet and Multnomah and Washington counties. Plan goals:

- ◆ Balance capacity by widening the Sunset Highway to three through lanes in each direction
- ◆ Improve safety by removing merge/weave movements between closely-spaced interchanges
- ◆ Improve operations at ramp terminals and arterials by improving signal timing
- ◆ Install pedestrian and bicycle facilities

--more--

When the Westside Corridor projects are completed, a continuous pathway for pedestrians, bicycles and wheelchairs will extend from Portland to the Cedar Hills interchange and beyond. Cars, trucks and buses will travel on an improved, safer Sunset Highway and local street system.

##ODOT##