

I-84 and OR 201 ITS Project

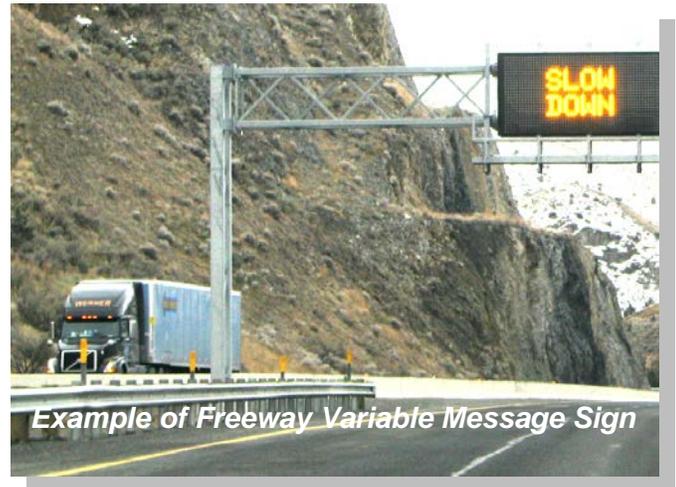
Construction 2017

UPDATE: June 30, 2016

OVERVIEW: This project includes installing several Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) upgrades along Interstate 84 and OR 201 (Olds Ferry-Ontario Highway) in Malheur County. The ITS components include Variable Message Sign (VMS) reader boards to display highway closure/delay information, ramp gates to block access to closed highway sections, plus Road and Weather Information Systems (RWIS) that collect temperature and other data along the highway. The upgrades will help keep travelers safe when weather, crashes or other hazards along the route result in highway closures and/or delays.

PURPOSE AND NEED: Hazardous weather conditions and/or crashes along the freeway often result in road closures, potentially impacting thousands of travelers and preventing commerce from moving efficiently. The project improvements will help ODOT monitor weather conditions and keep travelers informed when an incident impacts freeway traffic (closure/lane restrictions/etc.). The **VMS reader boards** can be used to redirect traffic or alert motorists of hazardous conditions ahead. These digital signs include large variable message reader boards on the freeway and smaller, single message signs along OR 201. Road temperature and condition information collected by **RWIS** sensors installed near the road bed will help ODOT assess current conditions on various highway sections. The data will also be available via TripCheck to help motorists make more informed travel plans. New **ramp gates** will prevent motorists from entering freeway sections that are closed ahead. The gates will replace the need for manned closures at these sites, allowing ODOT staff to concentrate efforts on snow plowing, incident response or other critical duties during a closure event. Some of the ramp gates will be automated, operated by remote control. This enhancement will help expedite road closure operations, reducing the number of motorists that could become stranded on blocked sections of freeway.

“We have many closures on I84,” said ODOT Project Leader Sean Maloney. “The purpose of this project is to give us better tools to communicate with the traveling public to help keep motorists and ODOT crewmembers safer during events that close or restrict travel on state highways.”



CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS: As most of the work for this project will be constructed off the highway, traffic impacts will be minimal, consisting of lane closures and minor delays. Occasional delays up to 20 minutes may occur at times.

TIMELINE: The project is expected to go out to bid in August 2016, with work occurring during the 2017 construction season. Work will typically take place during daylight hours Monday through Friday.

More information: ODOT Project Leader Sean Maloney 541-823-4025 or by email at sean.maloney@odot.state.or.us

For updated information on highway work and current travel information throughout Oregon, visit www.tripcheck.com or call the toll-free Oregon road report at 511 or (800) 977-6368. Visit the ODOT News Media Center at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/.