



Mile Post 49.2 to Mile Post 57.45

# U.S. 26 MT. HOOD HIGHWAY

Safety and Preservation Project

## Fact Sheet

ODOT will construct a project along a nearly eight mile stretch of U.S. 26 between Rhododendron and OR 35 to improve safety by reducing severe crossover crashes and rockfall.

### Project Elements

- Paving between Silent Rock and OR 35
- Cutting back the rock slope on the west end of the project for rock fall mitigation
- Highway widening to install a median barrier
- Installing a median barrier between the east- and westbound lanes for about a 2.3-mile stretch from east of Kiwanis Camp Road to east of Mirror Lake trailhead
- Construction of a retaining wall to reduce impacts to existing trail from highway widening work
- Extending the westbound passing lanes for a total of about 1,400 feet

### Project Schedule

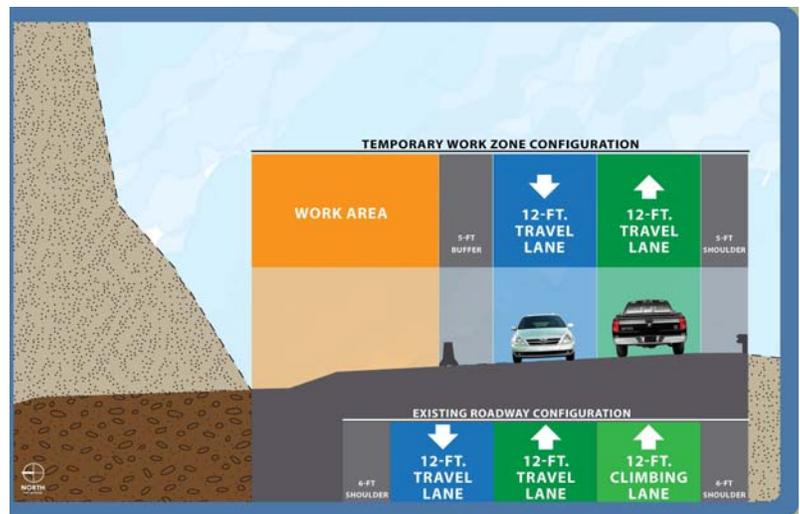
Work will take place from April through October starting in 2014. No work will occur from November through March of each year. ODOT currently expects that work will occur in 2014, 2015 and 2016. However, severe weather and a change in site conditions could extend the work.

### Impacts to Travel

During construction, you will still be able to get to your favorite spot on the mountain or wherever you are heading. However, the reality is construction will delay people moving through the area. While we will have some short-term highway closures and there will be some delays, we will work to keep people moving.

**Here is what to expect when construction takes place during the months of April – October:**

- **Travelers should expect closures up to one hour three days a week Monday through Thursday in the early evening between 5:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. for blasting the rock slopes.** ODOT is still working the details to the exact time of these closures. Not all of these closures will take a full hour. However, it is best to plan on being delayed for an hour during these times. The closures are times based on how many vehicles are using U.S. 26 and on available sunlight. Nearby trails will also close briefly during the blasting operations.



*Temporary work zone for rockfall work in place from April-October*

- **Intermittent traffic stops lasting 20-minutes anytime the contractor is actively working**
  - **One lane closed between Kiwanis Camp Road and Mirror Lake around-the-clock for rockfall and retaining wall work. This means only one lane will remain open in each direction.**
  - **Increased truck traffic on U.S. 26**
  - **Intermittent single lane closures and flagging for other work instead of full highway closures.**
  - **Construction work will not occur on holidays and Sundays.**
- No construction work will occur from November to March of each year. During this time all three lanes will re-open.**



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## Fact Sheet Continued

### Increased Truck Traffic

Nearly a million cubic yards of rocks and other materials will go to several disposal sites on Mt. Hood. These sites include: ODOT Maintenance yard at U.S. 26 and OR 35 Junction, Tamarack Quarry, Laurel Quarry and two sites along Lolo Pass Road. This means increased traffic on U.S. 26 and the roads leading to these disposal sites.

ODOT will make sure the roads leading to these sites are maintained during construction and will return to pre-construction conditions after work is complete.

### Project Background

The Mt. Hood Highway (U.S. 26) is one of the most beautiful drives in Oregon. The highway serves a great variety of users, including visitors enjoying the beauty of the wilderness, outdoor enthusiasts taking advantage of the recreational activities offered by the many resorts, travelers passing through to reach the Willamette Valley to the west or Central Oregon to the east and the many freight and commercial haulers. Many safety concerns can be found along this beautiful stretch of highway, and many crashes have occurred. Some of these crashes have proven fatal.

ODOT is working on a project to reduce the severity of crashes while preserving the highway and its surrounding areas as a scenic treasure that safely serves Oregonians and visitors to our state.

### Safety Concerns

There were 301 crashes in a ten year period (2002 to 2011) along U.S. 26 between Camp Creek and Government Camp. Four people died in these crashes with 243 injured, 29 of them seriously.

An independent team of multi-disciplined professionals performed a Road Safety Audit of U.S. 26 in this area and identified engineering, enforcement, education and emergency response solutions to reduce crashes. Visit [US26MtHoodSafety.org](http://US26MtHoodSafety.org) to learn more about the safety audit. In the past few years, ODOT implemented many of these solutions east of Rhododendron. And ODOT will construct a project to address the safety concerns along U.S. 26 east of Kiwanis Camp Road to the junction with OR 35.



Along a seven mile stretch of U.S. 26 from 2002 to 2011:

**301 crashes occurred**  
**Four people died**  
**243 people were injured**  
**29 people were seriously injured**

### More Information

Stay up-to-date and sign up for automatic email updates by visiting the project website at [www.US26MtHoodSafety.org](http://www.US26MtHoodSafety.org)

ODOT will host an online open house in October 2013.

ODOT will give another update in early 2014 once a contractor is hired to give more details about phasing of work, traffic impacts and schedule.



### Questions or Comments

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