

Hello,

Thank you all for your patience while we at ODOT worked out final details of the project to rebuild the floor of the OR 58: Salt Creek Tunnel, repair the tunnel liner, replace the adjacent four half viaducts, and erect Variable Message Signs near both entrances of the tunnel.

In our last email update, we told you we were waiting for results of a constructability review and a review by ODOT's Motor Carrier Division. We now have consensus that the project can be built according to the plan that our bridge engineers have put together.

The project is targeted for construction in 2012 and 2013. In the first year, the west half viaduct will be rebuilt. Because that structure reaches more than half-way across the roadway, we will have to completely close the highway during construction. These closures are unavoidable.

Because the roadway has to be closed, we will also take the opportunity to excavate the tunnel floor and rebuild it eighteen inches lower than it currently is, with the new elevation enabling oversize loads to safely travel through the tunnel while remaining in their travel lane. If we don't adjust the elevation at the time we replace the half-viaducts, we'll lose the opportunity for the structural life of the viaducts, or the next 100 years.

During that first construction season of 2012, we will plan on six, 4-day complete closures. These will not occur Friday afternoon through Sunday afternoons, and they will not occur in successive weeks.

As we've mentioned previously, for the rest of the 2012 construction season and for the 2013 season, motorists should expect:

- Night time closures
- A single lane of travel controlled by flaggers
- Travel over gravel surfaces
- Over-width vehicle restrictions
- No construction during the winters

We understand that this will create hardships for some area residents and businesses. During the next few weeks, we'll be scheduling open houses to meet with you and discuss, firsthand, the benefits of the project and the impact on the public. I'll be back in touch when the schedule is finalized.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Rick Little
Oregon Department of Transportation
Public Information Officer, Region 2
Phone: (541) 726-2442
Cell: (541) 505-2069
Email: richard.little@odot.state.or.us