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NR number: 170808815

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Paving and sidewalk upgrades underway along OR 82 near La Grande

LA GRANDE, Ore. – High Desert Aggregate and Paving, Inc., has begun work on the Oregon Department of Transportation's project along Island Avenue (OR82/Wallowa Lake Highway) in the La Grande area. The project includes upgrading sidewalk ramps to meet current American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and repaving the section of highway between Adams Avenue in La Grande to Riddle Road, near Starbuck's Coffee. The freeway ramps at Interstate 84 Exit 261 will also be resurfaced and some traffic signal upgrades will be performed.

Sidewalk work will be performed during the daytime hours, while paving occur at night between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. to minimize impacts to businesses. Pedestrian can expect sidewalk detours along coned off sections of the highway shoulder area. Motorists can expect lane closures with a minimum of one eastbound, one westbound and the middle turn lane open for traffic most of the time during the evening construction work. Some lane restrictions will remain in place during daytime to accommodate ADA sidewalk ramp work and pedestrian detours. Sidewalk ramp upgrades have begun near the west end (Adams Avenue) of the project. Paving activities will begin later this month.

Motorists are cautioned to drive with extra care through this work zone and watch for pedestrians along the shoulder area and bicycles in the travel lane. Business accesses may be blocked for short periods during night time paving activities. Construction crews will work to minimize impacts to businesses as much as possible.

Traffic signal upgrades will be occurring during the day at the Monroe, Portland Street, and Riddle Road intersections. During signal upgrade work the signals will be activated by timers, rather than triggered by existing traffic. Motorists are advised to be patient as wait times may be longer than usual.

Paving work is scheduled to be completed by late September, followed by roadway striping (painted lines). Sidewalk and signal work may continue next spring if not completed before winter weather sets in.

“We ask that all pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists respect the traffic control cones, signs and other devices as they move through this work zone,” said ODOT Project Manager Mike Remily.

“Business accesses will be marked with blue ‘Business Access’ signs to identify that the accesses are open. We will also be providing regular construction updates to business owners to help keep them informed as to when construction activities might impact them.”

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Paving work will occur in late August/early September and take about 2 to 3 weeks to complete.
- Sidewalk and ADA ramp work has begun and is expected to continue through mid-November. Some sidewalk work may continue next spring.
- No lane closures at any time will be allowed for construction activities from August 18 thru August 22 due to the anticipated increased volumes of traffic for the eclipse.

For more information or to receive regular project updates via email, please contact Mike Remily at phone: (541)963-1349, cell: (541)786-0952, email: Michael.D.REMILY@odot.state.or.us