Spring 2017 Construction Update

The U.S. 101/OR 6 Traffic Improvement Project is nearing the end of its first construction stage. Since last summer, construction crews have made significant progress towards completing the bridge over Hoquarton Slough, replacing sidewalks on Pacific Avenue (US 101 northbound), and the new 2nd Street Plaza. The 2nd Street Plaza should be available to host a series of public events starting in mid-June.

The contractor is currently working on the east half of the new bridge with one lane open in each direction. While the original goal was to have two lanes in each direction open by Memorial Day, the contractor will be able to open two southbound lanes and one northbound lane by June 9. The project is still on track to have two lanes open on Pacific Avenue by Memorial Day, and the delay will not affect the anticipated completion of the project by the end of 2018.

Contaminated groundwater causes delay

During excavation earlier in the winter, a significant amount of contaminated groundwater began to accumulate at the construction site. Although testing prior to construction had revealed the potential for some contamination, the amount of contaminated water proved to be much greater than expected. To complicate matters, the heavy rainfall throughout the winter and spring added to the volume of contaminated water, and it became necessary for the contractor to divert resources from the bridge construction to prevent the contamination from spreading.

A company specializing in the treatment of contaminated water was brought in to help address the problem. Using a temporary system approved by the Department of Environmental Quality, two 20,000 gallon tanks have been installed to pump, filter, and treat any contaminated water that accumulates during construction. Once the site has dried out during the summer, excavation activities should be able to return to a more typical pace.

Upcoming work

ODOT remains committed to minimizing travel impacts during the peak summer months. Summer work will include finishing the two northbound lanes of Pacific north of 1st Street up to the new bridge, as well as limited intersection work at 1st Street and Main Avenue. Though there may be occasional lane restrictions, the bridge and highways will remain open to travelers throughout construction.

Next fall, the contractor is scheduled to demolish the old Hoquarton Slough bridge and begin work on the west half of the new bridge. Similar to the work on Pacific Avenue, Main Avenue (US 101 southbound) will be widened and sidewalks will be replaced between 1st Street and 4th Street. sidewalks on the south side of 1st Street will also be rebuilt, and the new crosstown connections shared-use path will be built between Hoquarton and Goodspeed Park.

Thank you for your patience

ODOT has been working closely with the contractor on a plan to accelerate future work and minimize the risk of further schedule changes. The project team has also been listening to local concerns about the construction process and is exploring ways to mitigate impacts moving forward. We recognize that construction is often messy, noisy, and inconvenient to the communities who live with it every day, and we would like to thank everyone for their patience as we work towards completing this project which will improve downtown Tillamook for residents and visitors alike.
U.S. 101 / OR 6 Traffic Improvement Project

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Learn more at TillamookTraffic.org

U.S. 101 / OR 6 Traffic Improvement Project

About this Project

ODOT is working to improve the safety and traffic performance of the U.S. 101 and OR 6 intersection in downtown Tillamook. The narrow streets that these highways use were not designed to safely carry the large volume of traffic that moves through Tillamook today. Construction is expected to finish in 2018.

The project is being funded with $30.0 million from the 2009 Oregon Jobs and Transportation Act, $1.5 million from other state funding sources, and $5.8 million in Federal funding. More information about the Jobs and Transportation Act is available at www.oregon.gov/ODOT/pages/jta.aspx.

Stay Informed

Visit TillamookTraffic.org for updates and to sign up for the project mailing list. For more information or to schedule a meeting between the project and your organization, contact:

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