

The Oregon Department of Transportation is working on a project to increase the stability of the hillside and traffic safety of Oregon 99E in Oregon City.

Why is this project taking place?

In Oregon City, the steep hillside next to Oregon 99E, also known as McLoughlin Boulevard, has a history of rockfalls. This project will increase safety for travelers by reducing the potential for rocks falling and impacting the high-volume highway.

We are currently designing the project. Work will occur on two sections of the hillside (marked in orange on the map below). The project area stretches from milepost 12.6-13.4, which is from the south side of the tunnel at Railroad Avenue through Old Canemah Park. The hillsides in this area have a history of rocks falling from the slopes and closing lanes of the highway. We previously installed wire mesh on the hillsides to help control the rockfalls in 1995 and 1983.



An interactive version of the map is available on the project website.

(November 2017)

bit.ly/OR99ERock



What is the solution?

For Section 1, the northern section, the contractor will remove vegetation that is in danger of falling from the face of the slope. They will also install rock bolts needed to stabilize the slope.

For Section 2, the southern section, the existing wire mesh needs to be moved or removed and the hillsides need to be scaled, which removes loose rocks from the slopes. The contractor will also remove vegetation, install rock bolts needed to stabilize the slope and reinstall or replace any wire mesh that is damaged.

Scaling is needed in Section 2 because the wire mesh is older than Section 1. Section 2 also has experienced more severe rockfalls recently.

What are the traffic impacts?

Construction is scheduled to begin in spring or early summer 2018. During construction, there will be 24-hour lane closures everyday on OR 99E. The lane closure is to protect the traveling public from falling rocks and to protect crews. The slope work will take about five months to complete. Those driving should expect delays or plan an alternate route, such as Interstate 5 or Oregon 211 and Oregon 213, during work.

Vegetation will need to be removed between December 2017 and March 2018 to not disturb nesting birds. This work will require lane closures. Details will be provided before work begins and the project website will be updated as new information is available.

What other work are you doing in this area?

ODOT is also planning an illumination project in Oregon City

at the railroad tunnel and pedestrian tunnel (next to Section 1) that will increase visibility and safety in both tunnels and reduce maintenance costs. The roadway and pedestrian tunnels have old fixtures and electrical systems that need to be updated. An element of the project is to install a variable message sign south of the tunnels on a new sign structure. We are planning to make improvements to the lighting in late 2018 or early 2019.

For questions or more information:

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Sign up for our email newsletter on the project website or by sending an email to Katelyn.

For ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) or Civil Rights Title VI accommodations, translation/interpretation services, or more information call 503-731-4128, TTY 800-735-2900 or Oregon Relay Service 7-1-1.

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Improvement Project**

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