



# news release

April 15, 2010

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**3-PAGE RELEASE, FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Busy Road Repair Season Gets Early Start in Eugene**

A busy road repair season is off to an early start in Eugene. Work is under way on the second phase of improvements in the Crest Drive area, and within the next week repairs will start on five additional streets. By the time fall rolls around, 20 repair projects will have been completed, fixing more than 70 lane miles of streets at a cost of almost \$20 million.

Primary sources of funding for this year's road repair projects include Eugene's local gas tax, a voter-approved bond measure to fix streets, and federal and state dedicated road funds.

In addition to the road repair projects, local public works projects include finishing the Delta Ponds Bridge, improving water flows and habitat in the Delta Ponds area, rehabilitating a runway and ramps at the Eugene Airport, and repairing underground wastewater and stormwater lines, bringing Eugene's 2010 total investment in public infrastructure to more than \$35 million.

"With this much work ahead of us, we wanted to get an early start on construction and give our contractors as much time as possible to coordinate their resources," said Pavement Preservation Program Manager Matt Rodrigues. As an example of the importance of project scheduling, more than 135,000 tons of asphalt will be used on the street repair and runway projects. And that doesn't count the asphalt that will be used by the Oregon Department of Transportation, Lane County and the city of Springfield on area road projects.

One of the first projects in Eugene this spring will be the reconstruction of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Willamette Street, using bond measure funds. Utility crews have already been working in the intersection, and crews from Brown Contracting of Eugene, working under contract to Eugene Public Works, will begin removing the deteriorated paving in the intersection the week of April 26. The rebuilt concrete intersection is scheduled to fully reopen in late June.

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Also in late April, crews from Knife River Corporation will begin constructing asphalt overlays on Garfield Street (Sixth to 11<sup>th</sup> avenues), High Street (Third to 17<sup>th</sup> avenues), Crescent Avenue (Game Farm Road to Shadow View), and West First Avenue (Seneca to Bertelsen roads). Funding for those projects comes primarily from state highway and federal stimulus funds.

Other streets up for repairs this summer: Goodpasture Island Road (Delta Highway to Kingsley), Willamette Street (46<sup>th</sup> to 52<sup>nd</sup> avenues), Hawkins Lane (18<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Videra), 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Chambers to City View streets), Harlow Road (I-5 to Coburg Road), 33<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (Hilyard to Willamette streets), Patterson Street (13<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> avenues), 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Hilyard to Patterson streets), 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (Hilyard to Patterson streets), Valley River Drive (Willagillespie Road to Goodpasture Island Road), Oakway Road (Cal Young Road to Fairway Loop), 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Alder to Washington streets), West 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue (Garfield to Tyinn streets), Crest Drive area streets (phase 2 of the project that began last year), and more than a dozen local streets that will receive slurry seal treatments.

Bike path projects include bond-funded major repairs to the Fern Ridge Path from Polk to Chambers streets and possibly the extension of the West Bank Trail, which also will be affected by construction of a culvert south of Copping Street.

With this much work on the schedule, it's inevitable that motorists will encounter detours and delays, said Eric Jones, the public affairs manager for Eugene Public Works. "In addition to having arterials such as 11<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> avenue under construction, there are going to be places where the number of projects in one area add up to major disruption," Jones said. Among those hot spots: Goodpasture Island Road, where bridge work, road repaving and a major culvert installation are all scheduled this summer; and the Harlow Road area, which will see not only repairs on the Eugene side of the I-5 bridge but also work on Harlow/Hayden Bridge and the widening of Gateway Street on the Springfield side of the freeway.

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“We’re working with our partners to coordinate as much as possible the work schedules and the information available to commuters so they can make the best travel choices,” Jones said.

Rodrigues, the project manager, cautioned motorists about safe driving in construction areas. “Please use caution when traveling through work zones,” he said. “You have to be on the lookout for lane detours and sudden stops as well as workers and equipment right next to the travel lane. Plan ahead, slow down and pay attention.”

Information about road work and traffic delays is available at [www.eugene-or.gov/traffic](http://www.eugene-or.gov/traffic), [www.keepusmoving.info](http://www.keepusmoving.info), [www.twitter.com/EugenePW](http://www.twitter.com/EugenePW), and by calling the regional road repair hotline at 541-984-8484.

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