



Oregon Department of Transportation

NEWS RELEASE

Transportation Safety Division

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ODOT's safety message goes on the road, visits Capitol on Wednesday

The Oregon Department of Transportation has found a new way to get the word out about work zone safety — and it could come your way anytime. It's a giant 48-foot by 18-foot curtain draped over ODOT's fleet trailer, which makes deliveries regularly all over the state. On Wednesday, Feb. 21, it will be parked in front of the Capitol in Salem from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in conjunction with the monthly Oregon Transportation Commission meeting.

"This unique opportunity allows us to emphasize our message even more," said ODOT Director Matt Garrett, a champion of the safety campaign. "Whenever we can remind folks to slow down and be aware in a work zone — or anytime they're traveling — we'll take it."

In big, bold letters the bright orange curtain says, "Slow Down. Better Roads Ahead." ODOT has been promoting that slogan for the past year in a statewide campaign, and the curtain design was based on billboard ads created by ODOT's advertising agency, Gard and Gerber of Portland.

"ODOT's fleet trailer runs up and down the I-5 and I-84 corridors and all parts east, west, north and south," said Dick Fenske, ODOT Fleet manager. "We'll also make the curtained trailer available for safety fairs and other special events."

ODOT's work zone campaign has become increasingly important for the safety of Oregon motorists and highway workers because of the increased roadwork under the Oregon Transportation Investment Act. OTIA work around the state will reach its highest levels in the next several years. The curtain message joins ODOT's "Slow Down. Better Roads Ahead." campaign of billboards, bus boards, and public service announcements. Information is available on the ODOT web site, including photos http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/COMM/wz_truck_photos.shtml and educational materials www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/workzonesafety.shtml.

###ODOT###

Oregon Work Zone Crashes and Fatalities

Year	Work Zone Involved Fatalities * & **	Work Zone Involved Crashes**	Construction \$\$*** In Millions	% Change in \$
1985	3	N/A	149.7	N/A
1986	3	389	166.2	11%
1987	3	417	158.9	-4%
1988	8	446	240.8	52%
1989	6	492	230.6	-4%
1990	2	504	283.3	23%
1991	9	371	209.6	-26%
1992	2	429	195.1	-7%
1993	12	416	278.0	42%
1994	19	447	230.7	-17%
1995	5	488	225.7	-2%
1996	10	549	243.0	8%
1997	21	370	264.7	9%
1998	14	485	276.5	4%
1999	9	413	304.5	10%
2000	6	350	273.3	-10%
2001	5	321	241.7	-12%
2002	5	421	250.7	4%
2003	2	516	342.0	36%
2004	12	493	421.4	23%
2005	20	511	411.4	-2%
2006	5	N/A	452.2	10%
Prelim.				
Total	184	8,828		
* FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System) 1994 to 2006				
**CARS (ODOT Crash Analysis and Reporting Section) 1985 to 1993				
***1985-1993 Original Construction Authorization awarded per calendar year, 1994-2004 Construction payments made to Contractors per calendar year (Construction Contract Administration)				

National Work Zone Traffic Deaths

Year	Fatalities*	% Change
1986	691	N/A
1987	702	1.6%
1988	780	11.1%
1989	782	0.3%
1990	786	0.5%
1991	680	-13.5%
1992	647	-4.9%
1993	762	17.8%
1994	883	15.9%
1995	789	-10.6%
1996	717	-9.1%
1997	693	-3.3%
1998	772	11.4%
1999	872	13.0%
2000	1,026	17.7%
2001	989	-3.6%
2002	1,186	19.9%
2003	1,028	-13.3%
2004	1,068	3.9%
2005	1,074	0.6%

* FARS (Fatality Analysis Reporting System)