

May 18, 2020

THE DALLES BRIDGE CLOSURE



Replacing the bridge deck on U.S. 197; The Dalles bridge

Proposed Options:

- **Conventional Build; 8+ month full closure**
 - Replace the bridge deck by removing the driving surface of the bridge, and replacing with concrete poured in its place.
- **Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC); weekend or nightly closures**
 - Build bridge deck sections off site and transport into place using large machinery.



Q: What were the closure options and which one was selected?

A: There were multiple closure options for the replacement of The Dalles bridge deck. A continuous 8+ month closure to replace the deck in place, or weekend or nightly closures while utilizing the Accelerated Bridge Construction (ABC) method. Ultimately, after obtaining feedback from stakeholders and reviewing the impacts of all methods, a **Thursday evening to Monday morning weekend closure was selected.**

Q: Why did ODOT choose weekend closures?

A: This closure window provides the least amount of total closure hours, the shortest overall duration of the project, is the most cost efficient, and also allows ODOT the opportunity to mitigate concerns regarding emergency services, commuter traffic, and heightened summer traffic volumes.

By utilizing this closure window ODOT believes all significant bridge work requiring weekend closures can be completed between September 2021 and May of 2022. Nighttime only closures would have added an *additional* seasonal closure the following year into 2023. Weekend closures are 10-20% more cost effective than nighttime only closures due to the lost efficiencies of set-up and clean-up required each night. The weekend closures will also allow for the smallest impact to commuters, and a closure during fall and winter will avoid peak tourism and harvest months. ODOT will continue to work with emergency services to mitigate issues relating to emergency response.

Q: How will this affect me?

A: The Dalles bridge will be closed from 8PM on Thursday nights through 6AM Monday mornings, Labor day 2021 through Memorial Day, 2022. A detour will be in place to reroute traffic through Biggs Junction during closure periods.

ODOT is working with US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to provide possible access across the dam for emergency vehicles during closure periods.

