

## Rock facade design chosen for new Sandy River bridges

TROUTDALE — After months of review and discussion, the Oregon Department of Transportation has announced a “contemporary” decorative design for two replacement bridges on Interstate 84 crossing the Sandy River.

The new bridges will feature rock facade treatments on bridge piers, abutments and decorative pylons. The spans will be dark gray with dark brown trim. Pylons at the bridge gateways will be 12 feet high, six feet wide and four feet deep at the top. The east-

bound bridge will include a combined bicycle and pedestrian crossing over the Sandy River.

Construction work for the bridges, considered the “gateway” to the Columbia River Gorge eastbound and to the Portland metro area for those heading west, is scheduled to begin in June 2009.

The bridge work is part of a larger project in which ODOT also will repair the east and westbound I-84 bridges over Jordan Road at exit 18. The total cost is expected to be \$66 million,

according to ODOT officials.

ODOT selected the design after discussing several options with the community and key stakeholders over the last 18 months. ODOT officials say the design best suits the community’s preferences and the highway design guidelines in the I-84 Corridor Strategy, which protects the gorge. All bridge designs throughout the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area must conform to the aesthetic guidelines.

The project team also has worked with area stakeholders to include a combined bicycle and pedestrian crossing over the Sandy River. The team decided to keep the combined path on the eastbound I-84 bridge instead of building a separate structure.

ODOT will continue working with regional agencies to develop other bicycle and pedestrian trail connections in the Sandy River Delta area, including under the Sandy River bridges in both directions.

— Shannon O. Wells

Reprinted with permission from the *Gresham Outlook*.