

Interchange

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project over the finish line.”

Plans to start construction next year

Oregon Department of Transportation spokesperson Lou Torres said the first stage of construction at the Aurora Donald Interchange is scheduled for this fall. The state will remove trees to build a noise wall between the off-ramp and the Aurora Acres RV Park.

The rest of the first phase of construction includes a new, wider Interstate 5 bridge with southbound lanes realigned to the east; ramps widened and signalized; and Ehlen Road, Bents Road and Delores Way realigned for better sightlines. That work is scheduled for 2022.

The interchange will be a diverging diamond design, which has non-free-way cross traffic move to the opposite side of the road.

“We will be constructing some of the items that will have an immediate benefit to the safety and congestion issues being experienced today at this interchange,” Torres said.

Torres said the design of the interchange won’t be altered if full funding isn’t in place before construction starts. He said ODOT could continue the project in 2023 if funding is available. If not, it will have to wait to complete it, and no one knows how long that would take.

Hope in the infrastructure package

The Senate on Tuesday passed the federal infrastructure plan Biden has championed. It includes \$110 billion for roads and bridges.

The House is scheduled to vote on the blueprint for the bill when it returns



The Aurora-Donald interchange in Aurora, Oregon on Monday, Aug. 9, 2021. ODOT will start the first part of a nearly \$50 million project. BRIAN HAYES / STATESMAN JOURNAL

Aug. 23. Along with the initial \$3.4 million in state funds, ODOT says it has the funds to complete planning and construction of the first phase at Aurora Donald with the \$25 million the Legislature appropriated in 2017.

Hank Stern, a spokesperson for Sen. Ron Wyden, said Marion County didn’t ask the Appropriations Committee because the \$20 million needed was higher than the maximum awards it was taking.

In June, Schrader testified to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure about the importance of the project, and \$20 million in funding for Aurora Donald was earmarked by committee chair Peter DeFazio as a member-designated project.

But it’s not a done deal. “Once that Aurora Donald Interchange is complete, and if we can get it done in one phase, we’ll save money,” Marion County Commissioner Kevin Cameron said.

Traffic spikes on interchange

Traffic on McKay/Yergen/Ehlen Road – it changes names three times in the seven miles between Highway 219

and I-5 – increased 27% from 2017 to 2019, according to statistics from ODOT.

Since the first phase of the Newberg Dundee Bypass – a four-lane road connecting Highway 99W south of Dundee to Highway 219 – opened in Yamhill County in January 2018, more cars connect with Interstate 5.

In October 2017, there was an average of 9,330 trips a day on McKay Road, according to ODOT. By April 2018, that increased to 10,920. And in October 2019, it was up to 12,740 per day.

That increase in traffic and crashes led Marion County to establish the McKay/Yergen/Ehlen Safety Corridor, the first of its kind in the state.

The county installed centerline rumble strips and larger signs, and added pavement markings and no passing zones. It also plans to add flashing beacons and traffic signs, increase intersection lighting and driver speed feedback signs.

“When they didn’t complete the whole bypass, all that traffic started coming into Marion County,” Cameron said.

The state needs about \$200 million to fund the rest of the bypass. ODOT

doesn’t have funds for that, either.

Economic development made possible

In 2015, a \$72.3 million reconstruction of the Interstate 5 interchange at Woodburn was completed.

Now, more development is coming to Woodburn.

Amazon is building a 3.8 million-square-foot logistics center next to the existing 1 million-square-foot WinCo distribution center.

Schrader said eliminating the choke point at the Aurora Donald interchange would aid cities including Aurora, Canby, Donald and Molalla.

Those cities, once considered rural, are now bedroom communities for people who work in the Portland metro area and commute through the interchange.

“Now our job is to see if we can’t get this, the Donald Aurora Interchange, in this project,” Schrader said. “That’s not easy.”

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Vaccinations

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cepting appointments and walk-ins for Pfizer

- Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

- Location: 5050 Skyline Village Loop.

- Contact: Call ahead at 503-391-1110 to check availability before visiting. Walk-in hours end one hour before the clinic closes.

Salem Health Urgent Care: Accepting appointments and walk-ins for Pfizer

- Hours: 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day.

- Location: 1002 Bellevue St. SE.

- Contact: Call ahead at 503-561-5554 to check availability before visiting. Walk-in hours end one hour before the clinic closes.

Lancaster Family Medical Center: Accepting appointments

- Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday and 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday.

- Location: 255 Lancaster Drive NE.

- Contact: Call 503-576-8400 or email LancasterCOVIDvaccines@yvfwc.org to schedule.

South Salem Primary Care: Accepting appointments for Johnson & Johnson vaccine

- Hours: 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

- Location: 4999 Skyline Road S.

- Contact: Sign up online at www.salemprimarycare.com/covid-19. For additional questions, contact 503-364-4005.

WPMC Health (formerly Willamette Family Medical Center): Accepting appointments for Pfizer and Moderna

- Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday. 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

- Location: 435 Lancaster Drive NE.

- Contact: Schedule appointments online at wfmhealth.org or by calling 503-585-6388.

Silverton

Hi-School Pharmacy: Accepting

walk-ins

- Pharmacy hours: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday (Closed for lunch from 1 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. every day).

- Location: 406 McClaine St.

- Contact: Call the pharmacy at 503-873-8391.

Pill Box Pharmacy: Accepting appointments

- Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday.

- Location: 302 N. First St.

- Contact: Call 503-873-6321 to make an appointment.

Stayton

Santiam Hospital: Accepting appointments and walk-ins

- Hours: Walk-ins accepted 2 p.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday in the north parking lot.

- Location: 1401 N 10th Ave.

- Contact: Call 503-761-2175, option 5 or email covidvaccine@santiamhospital.org. Visit www.santiamhospital.org for more information.

Woodburn

Salud Medical Center: Accepting appointments

- Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday; and 8 a.m. to 11:40 a.m., 12:40 p.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

- Location: 175 Mt Hood Ave.

- Contact: Call 503-982-2000 or email SaludCOVIDvaccines@yvfwc.org to make an appointment.

Woodburn Pediatric Clinic: Accepting appointments for anyone 12 years and older.

- Hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Open 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays for urgent care.

- Location: 2050 Progress Way.

- Contact: Call 503-981-5348 to make an appointment.

Salem Health Medical Clinic in Woodburn: Accepting walk-ins for Moderna

- Hours: 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday-Friday.

- Location: 105 Arney Road, Suite 130.

- Contact: Call ahead at 503-902-3900 to check availability before visit-

ing. Walk-in hours end one hour before the clinic closes.

Polk County

Dallas

Salem Health Medical Clinic - Miller Avenue: Accepting walk-ins and appointments for Pfizer

- Hours: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday.

- Location: 641 SE Miller Ave.

- Contact: Call ahead at 503-623-2345 to check availability before visiting. Walk-in hours end one hour before the clinic closes.

Salem Health Medical Clinic - Uglow Avenue: Accepting walk-ins and appointments for Pfizer

- Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

- Location: 1000 SE Uglow Ave.

- Contact: Call ahead at 503-623-8376 to check availability before visiting. Walk-in hours end one hour before the clinic closes.

Monmouth

Salem Health Medical Clinic - Monmouth: Accepting walk-ins and appointments for Pfizer

- Hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

- Location: 512 Main St. E, Suite 300.

- Contact: Call ahead at 503-838-1182 to check availability before visiting. Walk-in hours end one hour before the clinic closes.

Total Health Community Clinic, Northwest Human Services: Accepting appointments

- Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays for first doses. 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays for second doses.

- Location: 180 Atwater St. N.

- Contact: Call 503-378-7526 or visit <http://www.northwesthumanservices.org/> to schedule.

West Salem

Salem Health Medical Clinic - Edgewater: Accepting walk-ins and appointments for Pfizer

- Hours: 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday,

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

- Location: 1049 Edgewater St. NW.

- Contact: Call ahead at 503-814-3343 to check availability before visiting. Walk-in hours end one hour before the clinic closes.

Northwest Human Services West Salem clinic: Accepting walk-ins for Moderna

- Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday.

- Location: 1233 Edgewater St. NW.

- Contact: 503-378-7526 or schedule an appointment at <http://www.northwesthumanservices.org/>.

Pharmacies

Many large pharmacy systems in the community are receiving COVID-19 vaccines from the federal government. For information and to search for available appointments, visit the resources below:

- Albertsons / Safeway: visit www.mhealthappointments.com/covid19.

- Bi-Mart: visit www.bimart.com/pharmacy/COVID-19-vaccine.

- Costco: visit www.costco.com/covid-vaccine.html.

- Fred Meyer: visit www.fredmeyer.com/rx/guest/get-vaccinated.

- Rite Aid: visit www.riteaid.com/covid-19.

- Walgreens: visit www.walgreens.com/findcare/vaccination/covid19/landing?ban=covid_vaccine_landing_schedule.

- Walmart: visit www.walmart.com/cp/immunizations-flu-shots/1228302.

For additional assistance finding or creating a vaccination appointment, call 2-1-1.

Statesman Journal reporter Tracy Loew contributed to this story.

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Workers

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sistance to people who did not qualify for unemployment benefits or stimulus checks because of their immigration status.

Indigenous farmworkers were most likely to receive COVID-19 safety information in the form of a talk, but they were less likely than non-Indigenous people to receive information on personal protective equipment from employers.

To reach speakers of Indigenous languages, it’s important to use a variety of formats to convey information, Sanchez said.

“Most Mesoamerican languages do not have a formal written method, so written educational materials will not be useful,” Sanchez said. “Providing audio and visual materials in Mesoamerican languages is critical to deliver much-needed information on public benefits and workplace protections.”

Impact to families, mental health

The study exposed the impacts of the pandemic on farmworkers’ home lives and families.

The vast majority of workers surveyed described sending remittances to relatives in other countries, such as Mexico and Guatemala, and 85% said they sent less money or stopped sending it altogether during the pandemic.

“They not only put food on our tables, but on their tables and their family’s tables back home, wherever that might be,” Martinez-Medina said.

The report also indicated that farmworkers scrambled to find child care when the pandemic closed schools and daycares, and responses reflect the caretaking burden disproportionately fell on women.

Women in the surveys also reported significantly higher rates of depression and slightly higher rates of fright, anger, anxiety and other symptoms.

About 82% of farmworkers reported no access to mental health services, while sev-

en in 10 participants described symptoms of stress and other mental health struggles stemming from worries about catching COVID-19, their financial situation, and not knowing how to support their children.

“One theme that stood out a lot was the stress people were navigating,” Martin said. “(And) the fear that each person had of having to leave each day to go to work and then coming back to their homes and to their families.”

Recommending change

The project released a list of 14 policy recommendations based on phase one, including expanding state and community-led income and safety net support, enforcing existing anti-retaliation measures and increasing supports for Indigenous farmworkers.

The study advocates continuing and expanding access to funds like the Oregon Worker Relief Fund, the Oregon Worker Quarantine Fund and the Oregon COVID-19 Farmworker Rental Relief Fund. It also en-

courages subsidizing or providing free childcare for farmworkers.

The project notes enforcing workplace protections to ensure farmworkers can take off and file complaints without fear of retaliation, either through strengthening whistleblower protections or loosening restrictions on farm labor collective bargaining, would go a long way in supporting workers.

The recommendations also include making sure resources, relief applications and mental health support are available in all the languages farmworkers speak.

As a starting point, the project held a conference on Mesoamerican languages in Oregon designed to educate Oregon government agencies and non-governmental organizations on best practices.

Dora Totoian covers agricultural workers through Report for America, a program that aims to support local journalism and democracy by reporting on under-covered issues and communities.

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