

Ramp meters being used on Interstate 5

The ramp meter signal system on I-5 North will be turned on Wednesday, Jan. 7.

Signals on I-5 freeway on-ramps between the Broadway and Interstate bridges will operate from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., southbound only, and from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., northbound only, Mondays through Fridays. Although ramp metering has been in effect for several years in ten different states, the I-5 system marks a first for the Northwest.

Oregon Department of Transportation crews will be stationed at the on-ramps Monday, Jan. 5 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Tuesday, Jan. 6 from 6:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. to distribute flyers which give notification to motorists of the Wednesday turn-on date and how to use the system.

Ramp metering is designed to ease traffic congestion during rush hours by spreading out the traffic. By controlling the flow of traffic entering the freeway, stop and go conditions on the freeway are reduced. This results in fewer accidents and improved gas mileage. Average rush hour speed on I-5 is expected to increase from 10 to 35 miles per hour.

Motorists will find the ramp meter signal different from intersection traffic signals in that the meter will flash from green to red with no intermittent yellow light. The signal cycle will be short with only two seconds of green allowing just one car at a time to go through the signal and enter the freeway. The red time will vary depending upon the ramp, from two to thirteen seconds.

According to Robert Bothman, Metropolitan Administrator for the Oregon Department of Transportation, changing driving habits of some motorists is necessary to make the system work to everyone's advantage.

"Motorists who could be entering I-5 as far back as Going Street now using city streets to avoid congestion on the freeway and are then entering the freeway from Union-Swift", said Bothman. "If people continue to use the freeway this way with the ramp meters in use, they will find excessive and unnecessary waits."

Bothman emphasizes that with ramp metering, freeway congestion will be significantly reduced. "The freeway will now be the best route."

"If motorists learn to use the ramp nearest to where they start their trip, they will save themselves a good deal of time and frustration", said Bothman.

A carpool lane is provided at each on-ramp for emergency vehicles, buses and vehicles with more than one occupant. Motorists who qualify for use of this special lane do not have to stop for the signal.

Oregon State Police will enforce the signal system. The bond fee is \$30 both for violators who run the red light and single occupant vehicles in the carpool lane.

Workshops set by CCC group

The Confidence Clinic at Clackamas Community College will offer a series of workshops in January.

Gay Canaday, an attorney with the Oregon Legal Services, will present a workshop on "Parting", based on the self-help divorce manual Jan. 6 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. in the college Community Center, room 116. There is a small fee.

A "Problem-Solving Workshop" designed to help women gain self-awareness and support from others while improving their decision-making skills will be offered Jan. 6 to 8 and 13 to 15 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Atkinson Memorial Church on 6th and John Adams in Oregon City. Fees are based on ability to pay.

The Confidence Clinic will also be sponsoring a Job Search Day Jan. 7 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clinic, 19241 S. Beaver Creek Road. The program will help women fulfill their employment skills in setting up group support and job search resources. Fees are based on ability to pay.

For registration or additional information, contact the Confidence Clinic at 656-2091.



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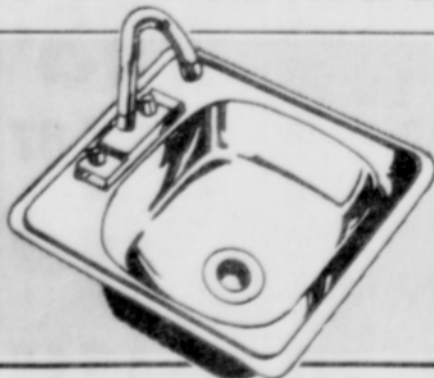
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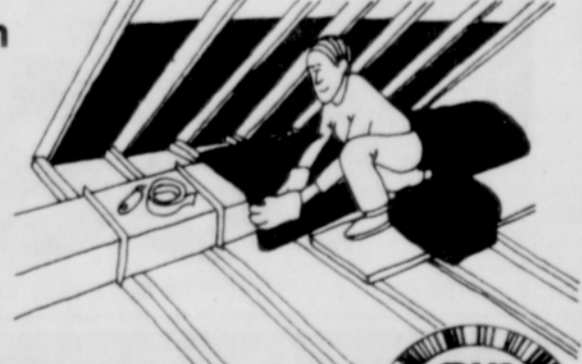
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