



Salem, Oregon

March 1, 2012

Oregon Travel Experience (OTE) announces the passage of Senate Bill 1591 by the Oregon Legislature. The bill makes changes to membership and powers of the agency's council. Additionally, the legislation will amend the 2009 Jobs and Transportation Act as it relates to highway rest area supervision.

"We are pleased that the Legislature recognizes that our staff's hard work is transforming the rest areas that were entrusted into our care two years ago and giving us even more opportunities to serve the motoring public. Our goal is to make Oregon a national leader in rest area management and quality service," said OTE's CEO Cheryl Gribskov.

Firmly rooted in transportation, OTE helps motorists with essential services. Its rest area supervisors have helped motorists with problems ranging from minor mechanical failures to life threatening emergencies. By teaming with law enforcement, private businesses and non-profit organizations, OTE rest area supervisors work diligently to oversee public safety.

In January 2010, OTE assumed managerial authority over nine Oregon rest areas; six along Interstate 5 and three along Interstate 84. OTE immediately hired fulltime rest area supervisors, addressed deferred maintenance, and crafted a solid plan to refurbish the stops.

Under SB 1591, Oregon Travel Experience will oversee management of two additional rest areas immediately: Government Camp on US Highway 26 at Milepost 54, and Tillamook on US Highway 101 at Milepost 70.

Over the next two years, nearly all rest areas located along Interstate 84 and Interstate 5 will be transferred from the Oregon Department of Transportation to OTE's managerial authority.

A summary of rest areas and locations are listed below:

January 2013 – Interstate 84

- Memaloose, Milepost 73, east and westbound
- Stanfield, Milepost 187, east and westbound
- Charles Reynolds, Milepost 269, east and westbound
- Baker Valley, Milepost 295, east and westbound
- Weatherby, Milepost 336, east and westbound

January 2014 – interstate 5

- Cabin Creek, Milepost 143, north and southbound
- Gettings Creek, Milepost 178, north and southbound
- Oak Grove, Milepost 206, north and southbound

Senate Bill 1591, its final amendments and the agency's plan of action will be part of the agenda at the Travel Information Council quarterly meeting this Friday, March 2, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at OTE's Salem offices located at 1500 Liberty St SE, Suite 150.

For more information regarding SB 1591, please contact OTE's CEO Cheryl Gribskov or agency spokesperson Madeline MacGregor, 503-378-4508. For information regarding the council's quarterly meeting and agenda items, contact Jenn Smith, 503-373-0155.