

Oregon Infrastructure Construction

SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

FEBRUARY 20TH, 2025

SALEM CONVENTION CENTER



PRESENTED BY



OREGON ROADWAY WORK ZONE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY SYMPOSIUM

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BREAKFAST & WELCOME, 7:30AM

SESSION ONE, 8:00AM

Oregon's Work Zone Safety Billboard Design Winners & Safety & Mobility Policy Advisory Committee Update

We are in our second year of the contest, which helps teach new drivers about the unique dangers of roadway work zones by having them design a billboard to encourage safe driving! Other states have started following our lead and are creating contests. The session will showcase the most recent winners and highlight how the contest is helping make work zones safer. Safety & Mobility Policy Advisory Committee members will also talk about lessons learned, challenges, and new initiatives – which include speed safety cameras, driver education efforts, and more.

SESSION TWO, 8:15AM

South Carolina's Work Zone Safety Driver's Education Program Speaker: Leslie Clark, Carolinas Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America

A handful of states have recognized that new drivers are more likely to be distracted by their devices and less experienced in operating vehicles than prior generations – and nothing was being done to educate those drivers about work zone dangers. Leslie is going to talk about how the South Carolina construction industry was able to create a program to ensure that new drivers learn about roadway work zones before getting their licenses.

SESSION THREE, 8:30AM

Commercial Vehicles & Work Zone Safety Oregon Trucking Association

Similar to roads and highways, commercial vehicles are part of every community's backbone because they transport every tangible thing we use and own. Although most people don't recognize their importance, we all see them when driving. Their size, weight, and maneuverability create special challenges for drivers and work zones – and those challenges are growing with the driving public becoming less patient and more distracted. This session will connect the challenges to work zone safety.

SESSION FOUR, 9:00AM

Risks and Liabilities of Poor Temporary Traffic Control

Temporary traffic control is how we manage traffic and keep work zones safe from drivers. Designing it well and understanding how and why it works (or doesn't work) can make a huge difference in maintaining safety. This session will provide a unique glimpse into the standards and what can happen when either designs or implementation fall short. We will also hear about how and why some contractors set a high bar when it comes to temporary traffic control.

BREAK, 10:00AM

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SESSION FIVE, 10:30AM

Project Showcase – Partnerships Improving Safety
Oregon Department of Transportation, David Evans & Associates, and HP Civil

Over 2024, two projects highlighted different approaches to improving work zone safety. The I-5 Over 26th Avenue Improvements Project implemented a strategy that is often not considered on interstate highways – a full weekend closure. Also on I-5, the Aurora-Donald Interchange Project utilized a new approach to major interchanges and highlights how safety can be improved when the contractor, designer, and owner work together during construction. This session will present different approaches to inspire the audience to constantly look for opportunities at all project phases.

SESSION SIX, 11:30AM

The Case for Including Mental Health in a Safety Plan and How to Do It
Speaker: Max Margolis, The Construction Suicide Prevention Partnership

The industry has evolved from ignoring mental health to recognizing that almost everyone goes through periods where they need help. We also know that mental health is directly related to jobsite safety. Despite the awareness, the industry still struggles with exactly how to make mental health part of a safety plan. This session will highlight available tools and provide easy and meaningful steps to include the tools on the job and in the office.

LUNCH BREAK, 12:00PM, EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE

SESSION SEVEN, 1:00PM

How Smart Can Work Zones Get?
Speakers: Scott Allison & Damian Casados, Coral Sales Co.

Although we often blame technology for making work zones less safe because drivers are distracted, technology can also help make work zones safer. Last year we explored how portable rumble strips are waking drivers up and this year Scott and Damian will talk about how a fully connected work zone can make things even better.

SESSION EIGHT, 1:30PM

Luckily OSU Does More Than Play Football
Speakers: John Gambatese, PhD, PE

There are only a handful of universities in the Country that recognize construction safety as an issue worthy of considerable research – and we are lucky to have one of those Universities in Oregon! Professor Gambatese constantly challenges his students to consider work zone safety and has led research on everything from designing to promote safety to new technologies. In this session he will discuss recent projects that might make you ask – why aren't we doing that now?

SAFETY SYMPOSIUM CONCLUDED, 2:00PM