



DATE: February 15, 2016

TO: Senate Committee on Business and Transportation

FROM: Paul Mather, Administrator
ODOT Highway Division

SUBJECT: HB 4047 – Speed Increases

INTRODUCTION

House Bill 4047 increases the speed limits on two short segments of highway in eastern Oregon.

DISCUSSION

The 2015 Legislature passed HB 3402, and increased speeds on a number of highways in eastern Oregon. Those increases become effective on March 1, 2016. Two segments of highway did not change – US 97 from Klamath Falls to the California border, and Interstate 82 from I-84 to the Washington border.

While the Oregon Department of Transportation does have concerns about raising speeds, we are also concerned about differences in speeds that could cause confusion or safety issues for drivers.

A 15-mile segment of US 97 from Klamath Falls to the California border did not change—speeds to the north were modified in HB 3402 to 60 mph for trucks and 65 mph for passenger vehicles. The speed on US 97 to the south in California is 55 mph for trucks and 65 mph for passenger vehicles. HB 4047 would increase the speed this 15-mile segment of US 97 to 60 mph for trucks and 65 mph for passenger vehicles, aligning it with adjacent highways.

Similarly, HB 3402 modified the speed on Interstate 84 to 65 mph for trucks and 70 mph for passenger vehicles. And, the speed on I-82 in Washington is 65 mph for trucks and 70 mph for passenger vehicles. HB 4047 would increase the speed for the 10 miles of I-82 to 65 mph for trucks and 70 mph for passenger vehicles, aligning it with speeds in Oregon and Washington.

SUMMARY

HB 4047 increases the speeds on two short segments of eastern Oregon highways – US 97 from Klamath Falls to the California border and I-82 from I-84 to the Washington border – bringing them into alignment with speeds on adjacent highways.

Attachment: map

Oregon Department of Transportation OREGON HIGHWAY SPEED LIMITS

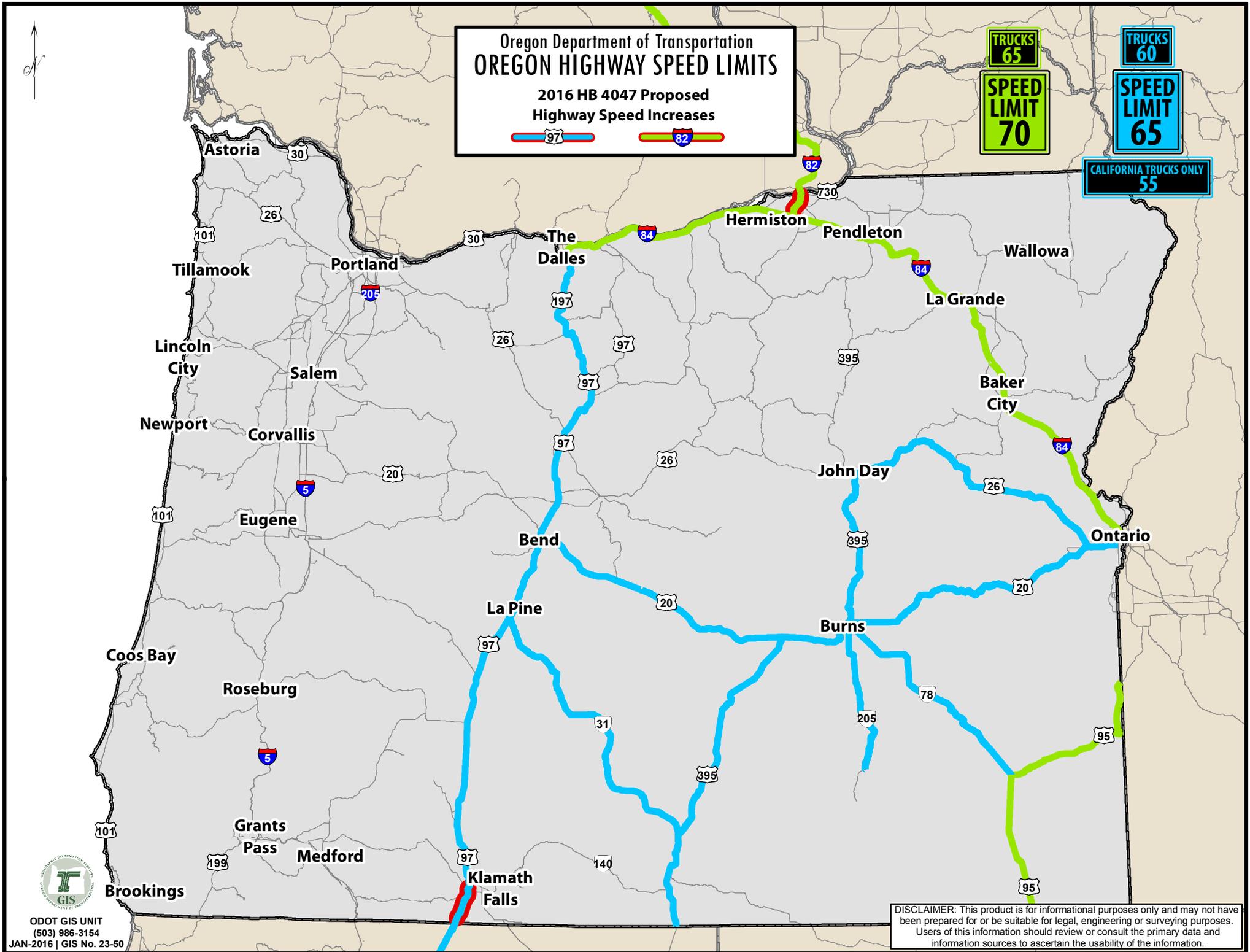
2016 HB 4047 Proposed
Highway Speed Increases



TRUCKS
65
SPEED
LIMIT
70

TRUCKS
60
SPEED
LIMIT
65

CALIFORNIA TRUCKS ONLY
55



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