



Powell
Boulevard
SAFETY
Project

ODOT Safety Project: US26 (Powell Boulevard) between SE 20th and SE 34th Avenues

Project Overview

The purpose of this project is to increase safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit users and motorists on a busy section of Southeast Powell Boulevard (US26) between Southeast 20th and 34th Avenues. This area of Powell Boulevard (US26) serves 34,600 to 38,500 cars and trucks per day, in addition to thousands of bicyclists, transit riders and pedestrians. People use the corridor to go to schools, parks, social service agencies, restaurants and shopping. This section of Powell Boulevard (US26) also is used by commuters traveling through the area by car and bus to get to work in other areas of the city and by trucks for deliveries to businesses.

Why is ODOT building this project?

Part of ODOT's mission is to provide a safe, efficient transportation system. This busy section of Powell Boulevard (US26) has a history of safety issues and is a high priority for Safety Funding in the state system. There are high rates of rear end and turning crashes involving motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians. Factors contributing to these crashes include poor visibility of bicyclists and pedestrians, limited sight distances, frequent left turns and side streets that are close together.

Project Elements

The project is expected to increase safety by reducing serious crashes within the project area while minimizing traffic impacts to the neighborhoods and local businesses. **Construction is expected to begin in winter 2017.**

Project Elements Include:

- Three enhanced pedestrian signals (Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons, “RRFBs”) will be installed on Powell Blvd. at SE 24th, 31st and 34th to alert drivers of pedestrians crossing.
- Safer crossings for bicyclists and pedestrians will include high visibility striping and center islands.
- A new wider pedestrian waiting area on the southeast corner of 26th Avenue and Powell Boulevard near Cleveland High School to provide more space for students waiting to cross Powell Boulevard.
- A new truck apron on the southeast corner of 26th Avenue and Powell Boulevard to increase safety by allowing large vehicles to turn without entering the pedestrian zone or encroaching on vehicle lanes.
- New signals at intersections (SE 21st, 26th, 33rd) with enhanced safety features, including bigger and more visible signals and poles, as well as countdown and audible countdown pedestrian signals.
- Tree removals and trimming to increase visibility.
- Improved street lighting.
- Enforcement lights for public safety (not photo radar).
- Increased visibility of bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists.
- Sidewalk ADA ramp improvements and repair of some sidewalks.
- Improved signage and more visible street names.

Project Schedule *

- **Summer 2015** - Preliminary design phase
- **Summer 2015** - Public open house
- **Summer 2017** - Final design phase
- **Winter 2017 to Winter 2018** - Construction phase

** Dates are subject to change.*

Project Contacts

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