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No more left turns from Scholls Ferry Road into Washington Square

New ban starts Sept. 7 to improve safety at a crash-prone intersection

Left turns will be prohibited starting Wednesday Sept. 7 from Southwest Scholls Ferry Road into Washington Square.

Barring left turns will improve safety at the intersection. During peak periods on a busy day, more than 200 cars per hour turn left into the mall from Scholls Ferry Road.



The Oregon Department of Transportation will construct a raised traffic separator between the northbound and southbound lanes and restripe the road to remove the southbound left turn lane. The new configuration will begin the morning of Wednesday Sept. 7.

Right turns to the mall access road from northbound Scholls Ferry Road will remain open.

The study began after local officials expressed concern about safety at the intersection. Many options were considered in talks that included Washington Square, ODOT, Washington County and the cities of Tigard and Beaverton. The plan will improve the safety of motorists. Long-term solutions are being evaluated but no funding is immediately available for anything other than the raised median.

Motorists heading for Washington Square and adjacent businesses still have many ways of reaching their destination: They can take OR 217 to Scholls Ferry Road and head north or use Southwest Hall Boulevard and turn onto Eliander Lane or Palmblad Lane.

On Thursday, ODOT put up a sign advising motorists of the pending change, reading: "Left turn to Washington Square closes 9/7/2011."

The road serves thousands of Washington Square customers as well as the Embassy Suites, a Wells Fargo Bank, an office building and an apartment complex.

##ODOT##