



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Transportation

Region 2 Area 4
3700 SW Philomath Blvd
Corvallis, OR 97333-1147
Office (541) 757-4104
FAX (541) 757-4220

Public Information Sheet

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Safety Project on Highway 34 Between Wolcott Road and the OR 34 South Bypass

What's the problem?

The section of highway between Wolcott Road and the OR 34 South Bypass has a high number of crashes. Most of these crashes happen around the intersections at Peoria Road and the north bypass. Over the last five years, there have been 71 crashes reported in this area. This places it in the top 5% of accident (SPIS) sites in the State of Oregon. Of the crashes that were reported, 87% were of the rear-end type.

Although this section of the highway is designated as an Expressway, bicycles also travel along it. Further, traffic flow is interrupted by numerous driveways and roads that intersect the highway. Cars and trucks enter the highway from these roads and driveways, distracting drivers, forcing through traffic to slow suddenly, and contributing to crashes.

Who is responsible to fix this?

ODOT is responsible for the safe and efficient operation of the highway. If nothing is done to improve the safety of the highway, the congestion will continue to get worse, and contribute to more injury accidents.

How will this be improved?

This project will improve the safety and operation of the highway by:

- Aligning Wolcott Road with Peoria Road, and expanding the capacity of Peoria Road with a double left turn at the intersection. This will improve the flow of traffic from Peoria Road, and allow more "green time" at the signal for highway traffic. It will also allow residents of Wolcott Road to enter the highway safely.
- Constructing a frontage road on the north side of the highway from the ODFW compound to Wolcott Road. Accesses to the highway will be closed and access will be provided by the frontage road which will direct all traffic from ODFW and adjacent houses to the intersection at Wolcott Road. This will make it safer for residents, and employees of ODFW, to enter the highway.
- Creating a bike/pedestrian path on the north side of the highway between the south bypass intersection and ODFW. This will allow bicyclists and pedestrians to have a safe, separated path to travel from Corvallis to Peoria Road.

What has happened so far?

In April of 2006, ODOT and CH2MHill concluded an Access Management and Expressway Plan (AMP) for the area. This plan documented a long planning process that involved local citizens, business owners, property owners, the City of Corvallis, Linn and Benton counties, and other public agencies.

The AMP settled on a preferred solution to improve the safety and operation of the highway. This plan prioritized the three phases of the project:

1. Align Wolcott and Peoria roads, and improve the intersection.
2. Build the north side frontage road and multi-use path.
3. Build the south side frontage road, and connect it to Peoria Road south of the intersection.

This project develops the AMP into a construction project. Improvements to the south side of the highway will be developed later, as more improvement funds become available.

How will access to the highway be changed?

Peoria Road and Wolcott Road will both be widened. This will impact the accesses to the Corvallis Market on Peoria Road and Highway 34 and may require closure or modification of the accesses. All private accesses on the north side of the highway between the ODFW and Wolcott Road will be closed, and traffic directed to the signalized intersection at Wolcott Road. This will improve safety in and around the intersection. Smith Road will also be closed to highway access. There may be other access changes to improve safety as the project is developed.

When will the construction take place?

The bid let date is November of 2010. Construction will follow soon after.

Who to contact with a question?

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact ODOT's Project Leader, Jerry Wolcott, at 541-757-4164, or email at jerry.o.wolcott@odot.state.or.us

You can also contact Joe Harwood, Public Information Officer, at 541-726-2442, or email at Joseph.D.Harwood@odot.state.or.us