



Crossing-Diamond Interchange *Also known as Diverging Diamond Interchange*

PDT-CAC members:

At the December 6, Citizens Advisory Committee-Project Development Team meeting we want to share with you a different type of interchange.

It's called a Crossing-Diamond Interchange, also known as a Diverging Diamond Interchange. With a Crossing Diamond Interchange, drivers are directed to the left side of the bridge to cross the interstate. This allows drivers to make a 'free' left turn. The experience is similar to driving on a one way street.

Crossing Diamond Interchanges can be less disruptive to established businesses near the interchange. The width of the structure is typically less than that required for a conventional diamond interchange.

Oregon Bridge Delivery Partners brought it to ODOT's attention recently as a possible cost-effective, efficient interchange option.

Crossing Diamonds move traffic quicker than other interchanges because they reduce the number of stops and improve interchange efficiency. There are only two clearance phases – places where traffic stops -- instead of three or more found at other interchanges. Conflict points are also reduced so safety is improved. Some intersections in the design won't require a traffic signal. In some cases, it cuts the Volume to Capacity (V/C) ratio in half. It allows for capacity near or better than a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI).

There is a significant improvement in safety, up to a 50% reduction in crashes, since there are no left turns crossing opposing traffic. Pedestrians and bicyclists can be accommodated through the interchange in a safe manner. Various options are currently being explored.

The first US diverging diamond interchange is currently being planned for Kansas City, Missouri (I-435 & Front Street). It is also being studied for possible use in Maryland along the Baltimore-Washington Parkway near Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

During Wednesday's joint CAC-PDT meeting, Brian Sheadel and Peter Schuytema will present a Powerpoint and a video simulation of the Crossing Diamond and answer your questions. We will also have information on the Crossing Diamond shortly on the project website. The agenda and minutes for the meeting also are enclosed. If you have any questions, please call Vicki Guarino at the Rogue Valley Council of Governments, 664-6676 ext. 241.

