

Frequently Asked Questions



How will this project affect me?

When it's finished, this project will help you get around outer SE Powell more safely. During construction, there will be temporary inconveniences like traffic delays, noise and detours.

Regarding design, the project team is looking at driveways and the areas where properties meet the road to determine if changes are needed to improve access and safety. If you live, work or own property on SE Powell Boulevard between I-205 and SE 122nd Avenue, or between SE 136th Avenue and just east of SE 174th Avenue, you may experience some changes to your driveway, parking or access. If ODOT expects to make changes to your property or business, you will be contacted by a project team member in the near future.

The project team will continue to update this website and communicate impacts as information becomes available.

Why is this project needed?

Fatal and serious injury crashes affect the lives of many Oregonians every year. In fact, Powell Boulevard is one of Portland's top 30 high crash streets with seven of the top 20 high crash intersections. This project will address four of those intersections. Sidewalks, dedicated bike facilities, crosswalks, improved lighting and center turn lanes have been identified to help significantly reduce the number and severity of crashes in this area.

Powell Boulevard is an important connector to the central city for those living in outer East Portland. The project area is within one of the most diverse areas in Portland, with a high number of community groups and individuals that come from varying cultures and speak multiple languages. In addition, around 25 percent of households are below the Federal poverty level. Improvements to Powell Boulevard will help the communities of East Portland more safely reach their workplaces, social services and other daily destinations throughout the city.

The project area also has a significant transit ridership that will benefit from the safety improvements of this project. As of spring 2019, TriMet Route 9 has the 5th highest ridership of all TriMet buses, with over 50,000 weekly boardings. Route 9 connects riders to two other top-5 ridership routes, the 72 and the 75, and to the MAX Green Line from the Powell Blvd MAX station.

How did we get here?

Since 2014, ODOT has been conducting planning, environmental and design work for the four-mile stretch of Powell Boulevard from I-205 to the Portland/Gresham city limits just east of SE 174th Avenue. In fall 2015, the State Legislature approved \$17 million to design and construct the SE 122nd Avenue to SE 136th Avenue section of Powell Boulevard, which is now under construction. Through the passage of House Bill 2017, the Oregon Legislature delegated funds for improvements on the remainder of the Outer Powell Transportation Safety Project. With this

funding, ODOT is designing improvements to these other sections of Outer Powell. Design will be consistent with the section from SE 122nd to SE 136th avenues.

Who is involved?

ODOT is leading the Outer Powell Transportation Safety Project. A Community Advisory Group and other technical and policy committees met throughout the planning and environmental phase to guide the project. ODOT is also working with the Portland Bureau of Transportation to coordinate on design and prepare for the jurisdictional transfer after the work on Outer Powell is complete. ODOT will continue to hold public meetings and community activities. Updates will be posted to this website as the project progresses. Stay tuned for project updates and ways to be involved.

What outreach is being done?

ODOT wants to make sure the public gets the information they need and has the opportunity to provide input and ask questions. The project team will continue to conduct outreach through public open houses, email and mail notifications, targeted community activities and information on this website.

Activities so far have included:

- Fifteen interviews with individuals and organizations that work with people who speak Russian, Vietnamese, Chinese, Spanish and other languages to help inform and guide our public engagement to ensure we are involving everyone in this project.
- Seven focus groups with faith-based and social service organizations working along and near Outer Powell.
- Individual Outer Powell Community Walks spoken in Chinese, Russian, and Spanish, Vietnamese and English.
- A project Community Advisory Group, representing diverse organizations and interests.
- Four open houses.
- A community bike ride.
- Information booths at community events including 'Powellhurst-Gilbert National Night Out' and 'Festival of Nations' in outer east Portland.
- Canvassing of more than 60 businesses between I-205 and SE 174th to provide information about the project.
- Interviews with 30 TriMet Route #9 bus users along Powell Boulevard.
- A ground breaking ceremony to celebrate the start of construction on the initial section of the project.
- Email newsletters to update the public at project milestones.