Channelization

Channelization means the roadway lane configuration necessary to safely move traffic on and off the highway. It allows motorists to move at different speeds and in potentially conflicting directions without colliding. Channelization is used on high volume highways and at high volume approaches.

Channelization takes the form of left turn lanes and right turn lanes that define travel paths.

Factors that may lead to a need for channelization:

- Number of daily vehicle trips on the highway.
- Number of daily vehicle trips for an existing or proposed land development.
- Traffic speed.
- Number of through travel lanes.

Why is ODOT concerned about channelization?

Turning lanes help reduce crashes in the vicinity of driveways where vehicles are moving at lower speeds to enter or exit the highway.

Turning lanes allow through traffic on the highway to maintain travel speeds instead of slowing to allow turning traffic to enter or exit from the highway.

Contact Access Management Unit
Phone: 503-986-4372
Email the Access Management Unit

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