8 TV HIGHWAY AND 185TH AVENUE *Safety Project*

Oregon Department of Transportation

Jan. 2015

ODOT will complete design in March 2015 on a project on TV Highway (OR 8) in Aloha to improve safety for people driving, walking, biking and taking transit between 182nd Avenue and 187th Avenue. Construction will begin in late 2015 or early 2016.

The crash rate in this section of TV Highway is very high, one of the highest in Washington County. Between 2009-2013, there were 156 crashes in the immediate vicinity, and 55% of those resulted in injuries. The majority of these are rear-end and turning crashes on TV Highway around 185th Avenue.

Although some of the crashes may be related to congestion in the intersection area, many crashes are happening outside commute hours when the intersection is not as congested. Rather than reducing congestion through expensive and impactful highway widening, ODOT plans to increase safety by minimizing vehicle conflicts.

The top safety concerns identified in the area are:

- Numerous driveways on TV Highway and cross streets in close proximity to the TV Highway/185th Avenue intersection. Motorists turning left in and out of these driveways and streets create a high conflict potential
- Poor visibility of roadway, traffic signals and signs due to short sight distance, lack of street suitable street lighting and old, poorly placed signs
- Transit stops in locations that cause backups and confusing driving patterns

What are the main project elements?

- ***Install a raised traffic separator in the center of TV Highway from 182nd to 187th Avenues.*** All turns will still be available at the 185th and 187th Avenue intersections. Left turns will be permitted into 182nd Avenue and the west driveway of Aloha Mall, but will be restricted to only right turns out onto TV Highway. This will help eliminate crashes due to left-turn conflicts
- ***Install 49 new LED street lights on TV Highway from 178th Avenue to 192nd Avenue and on 185th Avenue from Alexander Street to Blanton Street*** which will help pedestrians see and be seen better (through a partnership with Washington County)
- ***Move the bus stops in both directions on TV Highway to the far-side of the TV Highway/185th Ave intersection and build bus pull-outs.*** This will improve signal operation & traffic flow and reduce rear-end crashes
- ***Reconfigure the right turn from northbound 185th Avenue to eastbound TV Highway to a standard right angle*** to lower speeds through the intersection, reduce rear-end crashes and improve bicycle & pedestrian safety
- ***Add a striped bike lane on 185th Avenue southbound from just south of Alexander Street to Blanton Street*** so people on bikes will have a designated space to travel
- ***Upgrade signs and add supplemental signal heads on TV Highway*** to improve driver expectation by providing clearer information
- ***Add pedestrian countdown signals on TV Highway at 185th Avenue*** on all four corners so pedestrians will have more accurate information when crossing
- ***Allow U-turns on TV Highway at 185th Avenue in both directions*** for motorists to safely access driveways rather than making left turns

Project Schedule

March 2015 - Project design complete

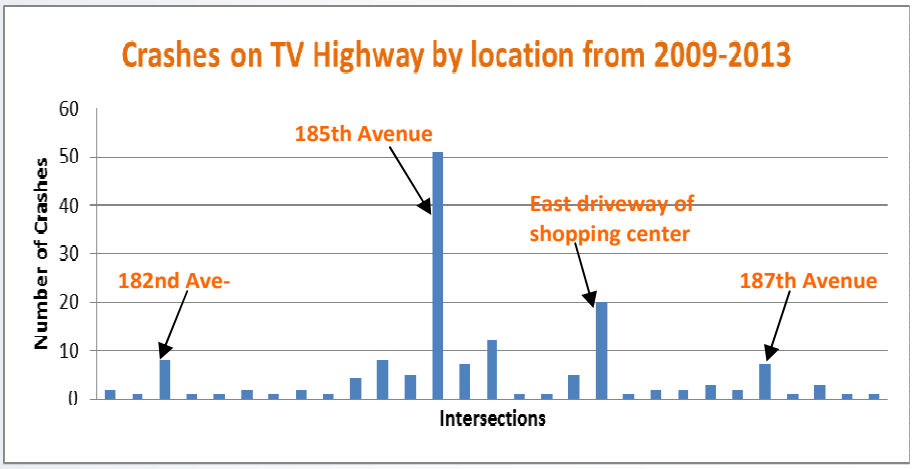
Late 2015/early 2016 - Construction begins

Late 2016 - Construction is complete

(over)

Background

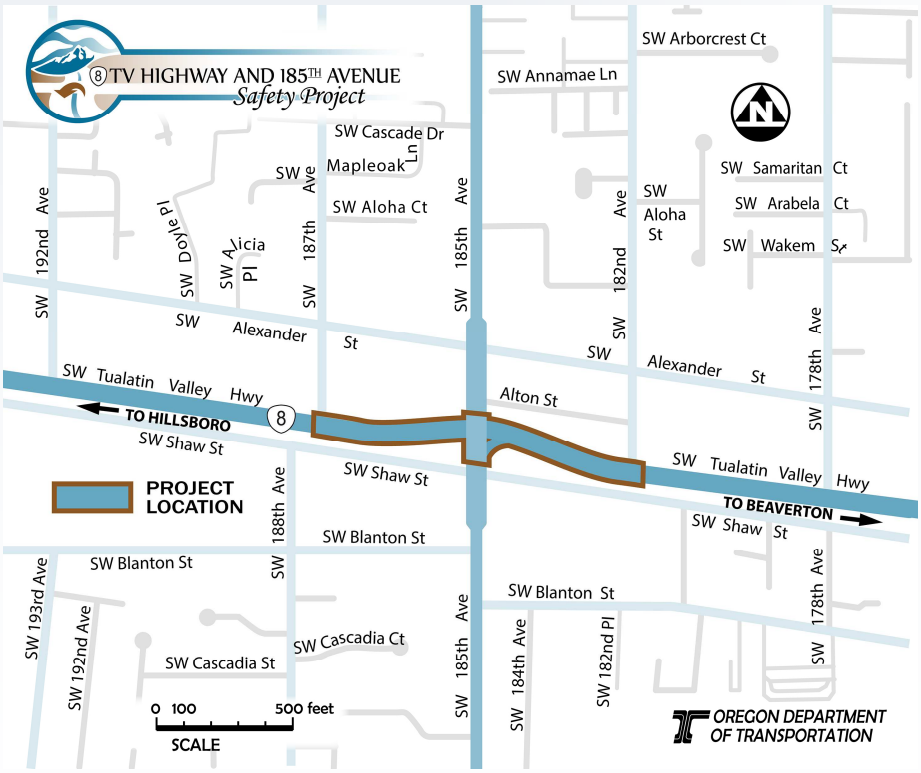
TV Highway in the vicinity of 185th Avenue has been a top 5% Safety Priority Index System (SPIS) site for over ten years. SPIS is a tool ODOT uses to screen the state highway network and identify locations that have significant safety concerns. Locations are then ranked based on the frequency, rate and severity of crashes over a three-year period. Those locations in the top 5% are investigated further for mitigation options. The best candidates for safety projects are typically sites that rank high in terms of cost-effectiveness and mitigation options.



What's been done so far?

ODOT conducted a Road Safety Audit (RSA) in December 2011 on this section of TV Highway. An RSA is a formal safety evaluation by a multi-disciplinary team, considering the safety of all road users. The team spent two days on-site driving, walking and biking each movement and observing driver behavior and congestion.

The objective of the RSA is to identify potential safety issues, assess the safety risks and recommend solutions to mitigate the risks. The RSA team was composed of ODOT staff from various disciplines, Washington County staff, and emergency services. The RSA report includes detailed safety problems and solutions and can be found on the project website.



For more information or to provide comments, contact ODOT:

Lili Boicourt, ODOT Community Affairs

PH: 503-731-8247; Email: Lili.D.Boicourt@odot.state.or.us

Visit the project website: www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/Pages/TV185th.aspx