

# OR 211 Safety Corridor: Improvements Coming Soon!

Since establishing the OR 211 Safety Corridor between Molalla and Colton in fall 2021, partners have completed a Road Safety Audit that identified a comprehensive set of crash risks and potential solutions. We plan to implement some of these solutions to reduce crashes in 2024.

## TRAFFIC IMPACTS

Travelers will see flagging and lane closures on OR 211 and connecting local roads throughout the project area.

## SCHEDULE

From summer to fall 2024, crews will install solutions developed in the Road Safety Audit aimed at reducing the crash rate in this safety corridor.



## OR 211 Safety Corridor

- Look inside for an update! ODOT has continued to work on the Safety Corridor
  - Road Safety Audit is complete!
  - Safety Solutions will be implemented this summer and fall
- Find out more at the Project Website:**
- [tinyurl.com/OR211SafetyCorridor](https://tinyurl.com/OR211SafetyCorridor)

For ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) or Civil Rights Title VI accommodations, translation/interpretation services, or more information call 503-731-4128, TTY 800-735-2900 or Oregon Relay Service 7-1-1.

¿Habla usted español? Podemos proveer la información en esta publicación en español. Para recibir la información en español, por favor llámé al (503) 731-4128.



## Questions or Comments?

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# OR 211 Safety Corridor: Molalla to Colton

## Safety Improvements Coming this Year!



In 2021, ODOT, community members and law enforcement worked together to designate the OR 211 Safety Corridor between Molalla and Colton. Safety corridor designations typically last for three-to-five years and implement education, engineering and enforcement to decrease fatal and serious injury crashes.

The fatal and serious crash rate in this 8-mile corridor was 166.5% of the statewide average for similar roads from 2015 to 2019. The most common causes of fatal and serious injury crashes were crossing over the center line, inattention, driving too fast for current conditions, and driving faster than the speed limit.

A safety corridor designation is a short-term way for ODOT to work with the community and law enforcement to raise awareness of fatal and serious injury crashes while working on safety improvements and longer-term solutions to decrease crashes.

## EDUCATION

We work to raise awareness in the local community and with people traveling through this corridor about safe driving habits through signs, meetings, outreach and education.

## ENGINEERING

ODOT completed a Road Safety Audit (RSA) in 2021 to evaluate the roadway safety conditions and completed brush removal throughout the corridor. As a part of the RSA, we engaged a group of community and local agency partners to identify possible safety solutions for the corridor to reduce crashes and improve safety for all road users. Based on the RSA, we are implementing low-cost solutions in 2024 to bring down the crash rate. Longer-term solutions are identified for future implementation as funding is available.

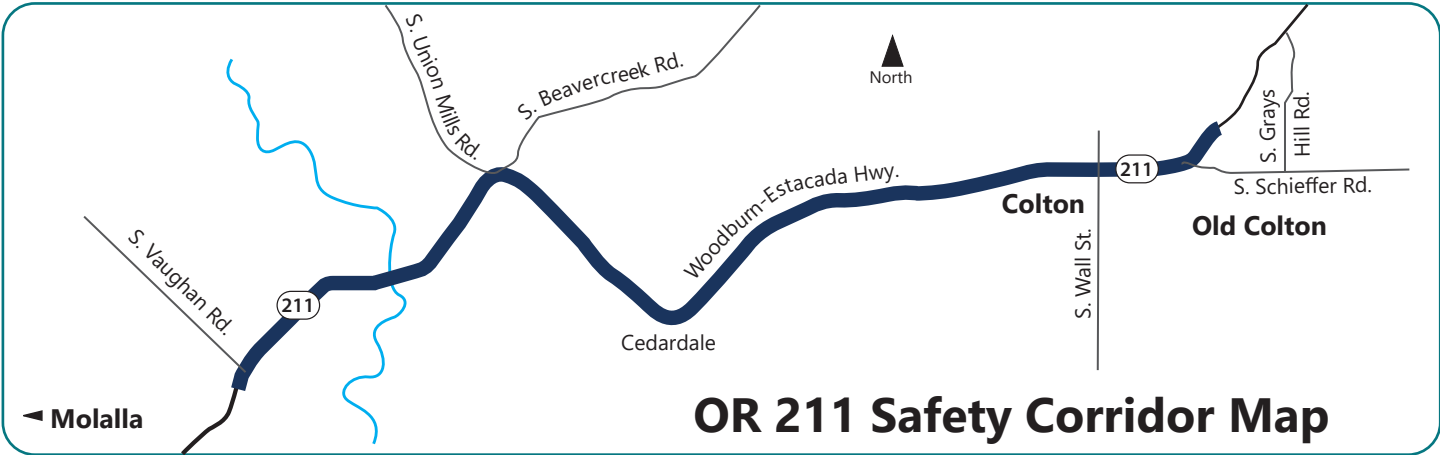
## ENFORCEMENT

We installed signs in October 2021 designating the limits of the safety corridor and announcing that traffic fines are now double. Law enforcement has committed to prioritizing the safety corridor to help reduce crashes in the short-term.

## A SUCCESSFUL SAFETY CORRIDOR

ODOT's Safety Corridor Program helps us identify parts of our highway system with high rates of serious and fatal injury crashes. After we designate an official safety corridor, we work for 3-5 years to reduce these crashes in the short term through partnerships with engineering, enforcement and education. Safety corridor signs will be removed, and traffic fines will no longer be doubled once crash rates have declined and the corridor is decommissioned.

**THE GOAL:** reducing serious injury crashes by encouraging drivers to change poor behaviors within safety corridors and drive safely.



## The criteria for safety corridor designation are:

1. Above average crashes: 150% of the statewide five-year crash average for similar highway type.
2. Manageable length: The corridor is approximately 2-10 miles in length and is manageable for enforcement and education efforts.
3. State and/or local law enforcement agencies commit to making the corridor a patrol priority.
4. Partners, including community members, government agencies and law enforcement, meet at least annually to provide input.

# OR 211 Safety Corridor: Molalla to Colton

We completed a Road Safety Audit (RSA) in collaboration with local agency and community leaders.

The RSA findings informed safety improvements coming this summer!

## Road Safety Audit

- Transportation safety requires continued collaboration and shared responsibility.
- ✓ The RSA, developed by a multi-disciplinary team including participants from ODOT, Clackamas County, City of Molalla, Police, Fire Departments, school districts and engineering consultants, identifies a comprehensive set of crash risks and potential solutions.
  - ✓ The most common causes of fatal and serious injury crashes identified by the RSA were drivers crossing over the center line, inattention, driving too fast for conditions and speeding.
  - ✓ You can read the RSA on our website: [tinyurl.com/OR211SafetyCorridor](https://tinyurl.com/OR211SafetyCorridor)

## TRACKING CRASH RATES

The crash rate for this corridor was

**166.5%**

of the statewide average for similar roads (2015-2019)

Between 2015-2021, there were **191** crashes

or an average of **27** crashes per year

with **12** fatalities

## Implementing Road Safety Audit Improvements Coming in 2024

### New Signs and Striping

..... The RSA showed high rates of crashes due to distracted driving and high frequency and severity of crashes at intersections. OR 211 at Beavercreek Road had the highest crash rate in the corridor with 24 total crashes from 2016 to 2020.

**Solution:** To increase driver visibility and awareness we are installing new enlarged signs with high-visibility sheeting on stop signs and other signs such as intersection warning signs. We will also replace sign posts as needed and restripe the white stop bars on the road.

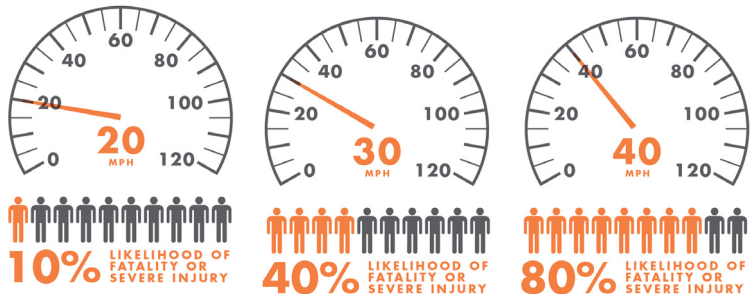
### Transitional Speed Limit

ODOT completed a speed zone investigation prompted by a community request. Additionally the RSA identified 14 crashes from 2016-2020 in Colton were the result of speeding. Studies show crash severity and severe injury rates increase with higher vehicle speeds.

**Solution:** This will be addressed by lowering the speed limit from 55 to 45 MPH in the corridor when approaching Colton from both directions.

### Benefits of Lower Speeds

Multiple studies support that crash severity increases as vehicle speeds increase (FHWA, 2009). The severe injury rate for drivers, pedestrians or bicyclists struck by a vehicle at higher speeds is much greater than at lower speeds.



### DEATH DUE TO SPEED



Mumble strips reduce cross centerline crashes.

### Mumble Strips

About 25% of crashes resulting in a fatality or serious injury in this corridor were from head-on collisions.

**Solution:** Mumble strips notify drivers they are leaving their lane or the roadway. We are installing centerline mumble strips at the east end of the corridor. They are a proven safety measure and can reduce cross-centerline crashes by 40-60% (National Cooperative Highway Research Program).

### New Lighting

Approximately 35 percent of all crashes occurred in dark (no street lights), dawn, or dusk conditions.

**Solution:** Install new lights at two intersections to improve visibility for drivers at night.

