

Hi David and Traci:

In late February, we removed most of the trees along the center median of I-5 between Glendale and Quines Creek as part of our upcoming I-5 Azalea to Glendale Paving project.

Our goal was to establish clear zones in this area and improve safety for the traveling public. Over the last ten years for which we have data (2012-2021), there were a total of ten crashes in which a vehicle departed the I-5 travel lanes in this area and struck a tree. Of those crashes, two resulted in fatalities and three involved serious injuries. Removing roadside obstacles can help reduce the number of serious and fatal crashes.

Prior to removing these trees, I sent out two news releases and visited local businesses and fire stations near each I-5 interchange in the area.

We did not consult an arborist since the trees were removed for safety reasons.

We received several questions through Ask ODOT, and I am attaching one of my responses. If you would like me to draft a separate response addressed to the OTSC, please let me know and we can coordinate.

Thanks,

Dan Latham