

Transportation Safety Newsletter, May 2021

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Oregon Department
of Transportation

Transportation Safety

May 2021

May is Work Zone Safety Month

A graphic for Work Zone Safety Month. On the left, a young boy in a light blue shirt holds a sign that says "My Mom WORKS here!". Next to him is a woman in a white hard hat and an orange safety vest, holding a wooden post. To the right, the text reads "Help keep everyone safe. Slow down!" in a mix of bold black and orange fonts. Below this, it says "RESPECT THE ZONE. The Way to Go." and "Transportation Safety - ODOT".

The color orange is supposed to grab your attention – and in work zones that can mean the difference between life and death. As we mark Work Zone Safety Month, it's important to remember to slow down and expect delays whenever you see orange signs, barrels, cones, and barricades in work zones and the transition areas leading to them.

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Spring into Summer!

When the sun starts spending longer days with us, we yearn to get out - and we hope you will: safely! Get ready for Bike Safety Month in May and help us spread the word. Our key message is, "Let's all look out for each other." Our free digital toolkits are [available in English and Spanish](#) and other safety materials such as brochures, rack cards, coloring books, and more are free from the [ODOT Safety Storeroom](#).

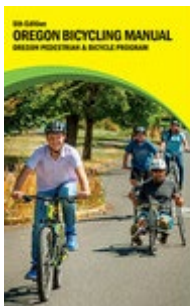
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Stay Visible to Others

Remember, when your wipers are on, that's your cue to make sure your headlights are on, too. It helps you stay visible to others and makes Oregon's roads safer for everyone.

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manual is for you.

Oregon Cycling Manual

The updated [Oregon Cycling Manual](#) provides guidance for people bicycling and driving on roads in Oregon. This manual summarizes Oregon State laws, also called Oregon Revised Statutes (ORS). Cities and counties may have their own rules that provide additional guidance beyond state laws. Whether you are just learning to ride a bicycle, celebrating hundreds of road miles, or want a quick review on the rules of the road, this

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Drive Only When You're Alert

Every year, drowsy drivers are responsible for thousands of crashes. So if you're yawning, veering out of your lane, or having trouble focusing, don't try to power through. Pull over and rest or take a quick walk. It only takes a second for sleep to hit you.



Crosswalk Laws

Oregon's crosswalk laws are designed to give pedestrians time and space to get safely across the street. They help us all get where we're going safely. "What You Need to Know About Oregon Crosswalk Laws" brochures are available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) and you can order for free from the [ODOT Storeroom](#).



ODOT Fix-It Program

Have you ever wondered how ODOT selects projects for Fix-It and safety programs? Projects are selected by applying engineering expertise while considering data on system condition and safety, community needs, and available funding. To demonstrate how we pick the best projects, we created a [video about our Fix-It and safety programs](#) featuring our own engineers and program experts explaining how they make decisions. We also made an [infographic illustrating the STIP cycle](#).

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Large Truck Crashes

The number of people killed in large truck crashes in 2019 was more than 30% higher than in 2009 according to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. More than half those deaths occurred on major roads other than interstates and freeways. Truck braking capability can be a factor in truck crashes. Loaded tractor-trailers take 20-40 percent farther than cars to stop, and the discrepancy is greater on wet and slippery roads or with poorly maintained brakes. Truck driver fatigue also is a known crash risk.

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Resources

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