

ODOT RealTime is a new system that will help make roads safer and help Oregonians get where they're going more efficiently by providing real-time traffic information to drivers. ODOT RealTime is being designed on Mount Hood.

Proposed ODOT RealTime system on Mount Hood includes:



Travel time signs, which display estimated travel times to key destinations so that drivers can plan their arrival time or consider taking an alternate route.



Advisory speed signs, displaying advisory speeds based on the traffic ahead. The advisory speeds will change as real-time conditions change. These signs give drivers a heads-up to slow down before they reach a problem area – helping reduce rear-end crashes and the congestion they cause.



Speed warning and curve warning signs, alert drivers about changing road conditions based on weather or congestion before reaching the curve, the slippery road or crash, giving drivers the ability to make travel decisions in real time.

What is the purpose of this system?

The new signs give travelers the ability to make informed travel decisions by providing them with real-time information about traffic flow and roadway conditions – to help everyone get where they're going safely and efficiently.

How does RealTime work?

Sensors embedded in the roadway and overhead detect traffic volume and speeds. These sensors even detect pavement conditions based on weather conditions and know when the road is wet, icy or snowy. This information is relayed to ODOT's Traffic Operations Center on a real-time basis. Sophisticated computer technology translates data from the sensors into the information drivers see on the signs.

Is the information truly provided in real time?

Yes, the information is updated every 20 seconds.

Where will the signs be located?

ODOT RealTime signs will be strategically placed in the Mount Hood area on sections of U.S. 26, Oregon Highway 35 and Timberline Road. These proposed locations are based on giving travelers a heads up about conditions ahead on known trouble spots.

What is an “advisory speed”?

The advisory speed is a recommended speed based on real-time conditions and is determined by safety considerations.

Will the signs help with congestion?

ODOT RealTime is not intended to manage congestion. However, a collision on a busy highway can bring traffic to a halt. By reducing the number of crashes, ODOT RealTime will help lessen the delays they cause.

What are drivers supposed to do when they see speeds change?

Drivers should slow to the advisory speed displayed on the sign. If the sign changes to a lower speed, drivers should be prepared for stopped or slower-moving traffic ahead.

Will I get a ticket for driving faster than the advisory speed?

The purpose of advisory speeds is to provide motorists with important and helpful information. In keeping with this purpose, drivers cannot and will not be ticketed simply for exceeding the advisory speed. However, Oregon’s Basic Speed Rule still applies. The Basic Speed Rule provides that any driver who is driving recklessly or too fast for conditions can be ticketed, regardless of the speed limit.

What is the planned design for the appearance of these signs and supports?

ODOT is coordinating with the US Forest Service to ensure the signs meet visual quality and Forest Plan standards. A visual quality study kicked-off in Sept. 2015. Results should be available in 2016.

Can you adjust the brightness of these signs?

Yes, the brightness can be adjusted. Although, the brightness of the signs will automatically adjust based on natural changing lighting conditions.

When is construction estimated to begin?

Construction could begin in late 2016 or early 2017.

Will I get to see the design before construction begins?

Yes. ODOT is working to design the appearance of the signs and finalizing the locations. Once this work is further along, we will share it with the public. This is expected to happen in early 2016.

What other signs or components are included in this project?

This project includes replacing the current chain restriction signs with new signs that are updated remotely and in real-time. Currently, our maintenance crews must change these signs manually. We will also place these signs in areas that need chain restriction signs.

New cameras for our website TripCheck.com are also included in this project to give travelers information before they hit the road.

