



TRAFFIC PATTERN CHANGES AHEAD

OR Highway 11 road restriping - Milton-Freewater

Travelers are reminded to heed new **traffic pattern configurations** along Oregon Highway 11 in the Milton-Freewater area due to the recent restriping work. The project changed the former four-lane route into a two-lane highway with a center turn lane between **SE 14^h Avenue** and **SW 2nd Avenue**. The new striping, which includes two bike lanes added on each side next to existing parking strips will help improve safety for motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians, **especially school children** walking to/from the new K-3rd Gib Olinger grade school constructed near Oregon Highway 11 in town.

Construction Impacts: Most of the work has been completed, however, motorists and pedestrians may experience occasional lane closures and minor delays as crews put the finishing touches on the project. All work is expected to be finished in the next week or so.

Slow down, get used to new traffic patterns: The transformation from four lanes to three lanes will take some getting used to. Motorists and pedestrians are advised to pay extra attention as everyone becomes accustomed to the safety enhancements. In the transition areas between the old and new lane configurations watch for turn restrictions, left turn only or right turn only direction arrows, and other modifications. In particular, OR 11 southbound motorists (from Walla Walla side) will need to use the left lane near SW 2nd Avenue to follow the highway (Main Street) south through town, towards Pendleton. Stay in the right lane to turn right onto SW 2nd Avenue or to access the northbound lanes of Main Street. New painted arrows and traffic islands with tubular markers will help guide you through the intersections. In general, slow down, allow extra space in front and behind, avoid sudden lane changes and be mindful of pedestrian and bicycle traffic.

New school zone: ODOT has re-established the school zone and installed advance signage. The new school zone speed signs have flashing beacons to improve visibility.

Proven safety enhancement: ODOT, the city of Milton-Freewater and the school district worked together on this road restriping program. Similar projects in other communities have resulted in slower traffic speeds, safer crosswalks, increased visibility for all system users and a reduction in the severity of injuries when a crash occurs.

Project info: Total cost of the highway restriping project is around \$150,000. ODOT and the city are investigating additional safety enhancements which may be added in the future, as funding becomes available.

Project contacts: For additional information contact Dan Fine at 541-963-1562 or Paul Howland at 541-278-6044 (ODOT), or Brian Steadman 541-938-8272 (Milton-Freewater Public Works).

The city of Milton-Freewater and the Oregon Department of Transportation appreciate your patience during construction activities and while everyone becomes familiar with the new lane configurations.