

OREGON SURVEY RESEARCH LABORATORY

ODOT CONSTRUCTION SITE SURVEY  
HIGHWAY 30 BETWEEN WARREN AND SAINT HELENS  
NOVEMBER 1996

CODE CATEGORIES FOR RESPONSES TO OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS

EASY1A

What are the difficulties that have made (it/traveling through the Highway 30 construction area) unsafe for you?

- 1     **OTHER DRIVERS:** The combination of traffic -- trucks and cars in a confined space/So much traffic/Traffic coming out from the side and the traffic gets tied up/The delays and people getting impatient and causing accidents/The congestion/Other drivers passing and not obeying speed limits/Traffic/People running red lights and stuff like that/The back up/People try to drive through stop signs/Stop and go traffic/Takes too long and you can never determine the amount of time you need/ Cause they don't stop now -- a pedestrian has no rights anymore
- 2     **ENTRY AND EXIT:** The turns -- the center lane used to turn to and from businesses/Getting on and off the highway/Hard to know where to turn into a store/Hard to get out of parking lots/ You don't know where they change the place to get into a business/Hard to get into local businesses/Difficult to access the side roads/
- 3     **NARROWNESS :** Lanes are too narrow/Road is too narrow/Narrowness of the access areas/ The area that they have the concrete slabs blocked off -- it gets pretty narrow with the semi trucks there/Lanes are narrower
- 4     **LANE CHANGES, MARKINGS:** Poor markings on the road/Tore up pretty good -- there are no lanes right through town/Like when it rains you can't see the lines at all because they are so faded/Can't see the road because there aren't stripes/The night driving -- I wish they would keep those stripes painted/Transition from one side of the road to the other
- 5     **ROAD SURFACE:** Where they cut across the road -- the potholes are hard on vehicles/Rough road/Big chuckholes where people are coming onto the highway at an intersection/I have a problem knowing if there will be any big rocks in my lane/It has been gravel to where you need to get traction to jump out safely in front of traffic/There are a lot of new ditches -- really rough/Huge potholes and high ruts/The drop off/Deterioration of the temporary road
- 6     **LIGHTS AND VISIBILITY:** There are not lights where there used to be/Nighttime vision/The fact that it is so dark and you can't see the holes/Mostly the way they have the stoplight in the middle of town that doesn't line up with any of the streets/Some of the intersections don't have lights
- 7     **FLAGGERS:** The poor flaggers
- 8     **SIGNS AND DIRECTIONS:** We tried to get to a gas station and couldn't tell where to go/Time to turn off to a store or restaurant/Not informed well enough in advance/Some of the new areas they have dug up and there isn't a sign/Confusion on where to be and how to get to certain businesses/Signs placed in the wrong spots
- 9     **EQUIPMENT:** Big trucks pulling in and out/Like the alternate routes -- like you have to cut in around a bunch of machinery they are working right next to the cars/Being right next to where they are working is dangerous/Machinery on the road
- 10    **OTHER:** Once a day or more they hit a water line/Closed Old Portland Road at a bad time
- 97    **REFUSED**
- 98    **DON'T KNOW**
- 99    **NO ANSWER**

**EASY2A**

**What made it difficult for you (to understand where you were supposed to travel on Highway 30)?**

- 1      **OTHER DRIVERS:** Traffic/Make both lanes of traffic go through easier
- 2      **ENTRY AND EXIT:** Getting into parking lots/Finding spots to turn/They are moving driveways and you do not know where to turn at night/Where to turn off/Can't get in to where you used to/Don't know how to access different businesses/Turn offs are not right by the businesses
- 3      **LANE MARKINGS:** Poor markings on the road/There were no lanes and I didn't know where to make my turns/No lines/Can't see the lines on the road/Lines on the road -- extra lines
- 4      **OTHER LANE ISSUES:** The way they put the barriers up/Road being narrower/The lanes -- they were making a new lane/Some places there were two lanes going one way and now there is one
- 5      **SIGNS AND DIRECTIONS:** Put the signs a little ways up the road so you can have some warning/Lack of good directions as to where you are going/No instructions or signs/Too many times where you want to turn is closed and there aren't any warning signs about the closure/I was confused about where I was supposed to be/Lack of signs/ When I followed the new signs I went into the new cement/Speed limit isn't posted in some places/ Don't put enough signs explaining where entrances and exits are
- 6      **FLAGGERS:** Flaggers don't direct you properly/Flaggers are out but don't show you where to go/Just knowing when it was your turn to go because the signal people weren't always sure where/Have people out there telling you where to go but you can't see them/Flaggers are very vague in directions
- 7      **IN GENERAL:** Everything/Trying to get across it/I carry groceries and try to get across the street and it is dangerous
- 8      **OTHER:** When they are doing something wrong
- 9      **LIGHTS AND VISIBILITY:** Poor visibility/Not enough lights/At night it is very difficult and there are no lights at intersections/Trying to see at night where it was
- 97     **REFUSED**
- 98     **DON'T KNOW**
- 99     **NO ANSWER**

**EASY3A**

**What has made it difficult for you (to get on and off Highway 30 at intersections and driveways)?**

- 1     **OTHER DRIVERS:** So much traffic/Other drivers not wanting to let you in/A lot of cars and you just can't get through/Traffic mostly because everyone is so jammed up/Delays
- 2     **ENTRANCE VISIBILITY:** Poorly marked/They have signs but they are small and many/Sometimes you miss your turn -- where you want to turn you can't/At night all the barrels and cones -- it's hard to figure out where the gravel is between pavement/Not marked well/Sometimes you can't tell where to turn until you get right up on it/Not enough signs/Barriers are too high and when you pull up from a lower area you can't see oncoming cars/Not well lit/Can't see over the dividers
- 3     **ENTRANCE SIZE:** Entrance is narrower/Openings are not large enough/Narrowness of the access points
- 4     **ENTRANCE AVAILABILITY:** Can't turn where you want so you end up going all over the place/Getting on and off -- you don't bother with Columbia City and St. Helens anymore/Have it closed off and have this narrow way/Limited access to a lot of businesses/Right now they've got a lot of the roads closed off/Accessibility/Some places where you're supposed to get off they have got it closed and you have to go way around to get into it/Turning in at one place one day and turning in at another place another day/Keep changing the driveways/Changes all the time
- 5     **OTHER LANE ISSUES:** The center lane was gone sometimes/Limited to just one lane and so it is hard/Lane closures
- 6     **ROAD SURFACE:** Conditions of the exits -- they're in bad shape/Large bumps when you pull up on the pavement/Roughness of the road/Just trying to get over the bumps/Some of the drop offs are pretty deep/The potholes
- 7     **FLAGGERS:** Intersections are difficult because of the flaggers
- 8     **TRAFFIC LIGHTS:** On Gable Road the light barely lets four people through/For awhile none of the intersections had lights/Seems like at the sign lights it takes three lights to get through/The places where you turn off have no lights/Timing of lights in the intersections/Lack of signals
- 9     **CONSTRUCTION IN GENERAL :** I walk -- it is always difficult safety wise/Everything is difficult/It isn't our usual route -- we have to go different way/I understand they are building a road so I can't complain/When they start bringing that concrete and trying to get to a business off the main highway
- 97    **REFUSED**
- 98    **DON'T KNOW**
- 99    **NO ANSWER**

**INCONV1A**

**Have you experienced any other inconveniences around the Highway 30 construction zone, such as noise, dust, and rock chips? If "yes" then asked, What (inconveniences) were those?**

- 1 **NOISE:** Noise at a hotel/Jackhammer is driving me nuts at my work -- it echoes through the building/Some of the machinery hurts my ears/A lot of noise early in the morning
- 2 **DUST:** So much dust and I have allergies/Dirty within minutes
- 3 **ROCKS AND CHIPS:** Rocks and gravel -- cracked windshields/I lost two tires to those rocks and three chips in the windshield/I had the front window broken out of my car because a big rock fell out of a dump truck/Loose gravel
- 4 **TWO OR MORE (noise, dust and/or rocks and rock chips)**
- 5 **OTHER :** Broken gas lines -- have had to evacuate work site due to construction/Digger was hitting our building during construction/Flying debris
- 6 **TRAFFIC AND ROUTES:** Being held up 45 minutes from Deer Island just to get into St. Helens/Just delays and had to find where to go/Time delay/Holes in the road/Potholes on detours/Falling into big holes coming onto Hwy 30/Car is too small to get over abrupt height change/Cut tire in a pot hole
- 7 **REFUSED**
- 8 **DON'T KNOW**
- 9 **NO ANSWER**

**SAFE1A**

**What has made it unsafe for you?**

- 1 **OTHER DRIVERS:** Always afraid someone is going to run into you/When we are getting on and off sometimes people aren't going the speed limit and they get upset/Traffic/The traffic trying to get on and off the highway/Congestion/People losing their patience and crowding you/Accidents I've seen/People pulling out and not giving you space/People speeding/I'm older and don't drive well
- 2 **ROADWAY:** Condition of the roads and lanes so narrow/Poor markings on the road/Holes in the road/Closeness of the traffic/Doesn't seem big enough for two lanes much less four/Narrow roads/ Lanes too narrow/Not adequate room for two vehicles to pass/No way out if there is an accident/ Abrupt edges
- 3 **EQUIPMENT AND FLAGGERS:** Within two or three feet of the machinery/Construction zone is not being regulated in a logical way -- they think more about the people working on it than the ones who have to use it while they build it
- 4 **OTHER:** Mass amount of confusion/Construction/The way it is getting on and off the highway/No signs on closed entrances to businesses
- 5 **VISIBILITY:** I come through there in the morning and it's dark/Vision/Bad visibility at nighttime
- 7 **REFUSED**
- 8 **DON'T KNOW**
- 9 **NO ANSWER**

**SAFE3**

**How could (it/the Highway 30 construction zone) be made more safe for you?**

- 1     **URNS AND ENTRANCES:** Because of the getting on and off/Better markings for when you have to exit/More control over entering onto the highway/Some pull-outs/Can't get onto the highway from the crossroads/Not enough room for the trucks to make a left turn/Have entry ways to businesses marked better/Mark the turnoffs/One day there is a turn to a store and the next day it is somewhere else/Exits to the businesses are difficult/On the turn off there should be a light so it can be seen/Have turn off lanes/Bigger turn off spots
  
- 2     **DRIVING CONDITIONS:** Wider/Narrow roads prevent it/Wider when you are first going into St. Helens/Widen it a little more/Want more shoulder room/Give me more room/Lack of shoulders/If the middle of the road is a ditch to divert standing water on the road since there is no shoulder to go to/Coming up with a more see through type of barricade to we can see traffic easier
  
- 3     **MARK AND LIGHT ROAD :** Lights and more markings/Define the dividing lines on the highway/The lines down the center -- it is hard to tell where the lines are/No lines in-between oncoming traffic/Shoulder lighting for nighttime driving/Lights and brighter lines on the road/Put reflector type markers on the shoulders because of the real heavy fog this time of year/Mark the new areas with paint/Fog lines aren't there
  
- 4     **ROAD SURFACE:** Accesses on and off roads that have potholes/Keep the highway a little smoother/Fill the potholes/Have a street sweeper go down the road and knock off the big chunks of debris/Fix the rough roads/Quality checks on the weekends to look at areas that have sunken in and to pick up cones that have fallen into the roadway/Maintain patches
  
- 5     **HAVE ALTERNATE ROUTES:** Should have taken the old highway and widened it and then concentrated on the places to expand/They could have rerouted the whole thing to Old Portland Road/People avoiding the area unless necessary/Could open up the cement part they have done now/Not closed Old Portland Road at same time -- should've done it first
  
- 6     **ADD OR IMPROVE SIGNS:** Proper signage/People need to know what construction is going on at least a mile away/Better signage/Larger signs/Getting the vision blocking signs out of the way
  
- 7     **TRAFFIC CONTROL:** More patrols through the construction speed zones/If they had more people out there directing traffic/If they had someone directing traffic at the intersections/Highway patrollers stopping speeders/If they had stop lights/Need some experienced flaggers/More traffic signals on every road/More flaggers/Police should be more visible so traffic slows down/Better control at intersections
  
- 8     **SPEED LIMITS:** If everyone drove the speed limit/Keep the speed down in that area/Main problem is that people are not obeying the speed limits
  
- 9     **OTHER DRIVERS:** Keep the drivers off my tail/A lot of it is the other drivers/The other drivers don't pull out in front of you/There's so many cars and two lanes/I had someone come across head at me/Courtesy of other drivers/No people/Eliminate the cars/Have other drivers be more aware
  
- 10    **THE EQUIPMENT:** Competing with those big trucks/Eliminating nine tenths of the trucks but that's impossible because they are mostly construction trucks

**SAFE3 (Continued)**

**How could (it/the Highway 30 construction zone) be made more safe for you?**

- 11 **FINISH IT:** Just having it finished/When they get done/Be done with the construction/Hurry up and get done/Not take so long to finish it/Once they are done I'm sure it will be fine/We'll just be glad when the new one's in
- 12 **WORK AT NIGHT**
- 13 **DO SMALL SECTIONS:** Should have done smaller sections at a time/If they had done it in sections
- 14 **WAY IT WAS:** Should have left it alone
- 15 **NOTHING MORE TO DO:** Don't think it can be more safe/It can't/Don't think they can until it is done/Can't be until the construction is over/Don't think they can until it is done/Don't think it is possible/They are doing the best that they can/Don't see a way they could -- construction is construction
- 16 **NO PROBLEMS:** It is fine the way it is now/I drove a truck for quite a while so this stuff doesn't bother me/It is fine now/Safety isn't an issue/I don't have a problem with it/It's okay/Not an issue of safety -- it is inconvenient
- 17 **NOT IN AREA MUCH:** Didn't live in the area until June/I don't use it that much/I try to avoid it/Don't go at peak times
- 18 **OTHER:** It could have been planned better/Don't see any changes being made/Laying out a path where you need to go
- 97 **REFUSED**
- 98 **DON'T KNOW**
- 99 **NO ANSWER**

**WISEUS2**

**Why (do you think that the Highway 30 construction project is a wise use of taxpayers' money)?**

- 1     **HEAVY TRAFFIC:** Because of increased traffic/It was narrow and heavily traveled/The bottlenecks in the Warren area/I thought it was foolish until I see how much traffic comes through/Road is very important otherwise traffic builds up/Traffic has gotten heavier in the past few years/Road is too small for the amount of traffic/Because we have a lot of traffic through there/The traffic has gotten to be more and more and more/Soon as they are done the traffic won't be as heavy/Hwy 30 is a bottleneck/Solves some of the congestion
- 2     **POPULATION GROWTH:** We are becoming a bedroom community for Portland -- more people are moving here/This is a big development area/Scappoose and St. Helens are growing/Because of the growth out here/Our population explosion/We have more and more people and they work in Portland/Our city is really growing
- 3     **EASE TRAVEL** It is a major thoroughfare//Easier to get around/Takes some of the pressure off of Longview bridge and connects me with places I normally go/For those who need it it is much easier/Traveling to Portland I see there are a lot of commuters -- if it is wider and bigger it would be more convenient for people who drive/It will be more convenient for everyone/Just makes it easier for commuting
- 4     **SAFETY:** It is dangerous/It is bound to save some lives/It is going to be wider and safer/Hwy 30 is a death trap/Make it safer for everyone/We have to do something to make the streets safer/Because of the number of deaths we've had out here
- 5     **ROUTE TO THE COAST:** We need a better connection with the beach/Open up another access to the coast
- 6     **IMPROVES ROAD:** They repair it every year anyway -- maybe if they do it right there won't be as many inconveniences in the future/We need to have a decent road/It is making it better for us to drive on it/The road needed repair/There were a lot of potholes/Road was in real need of repair/ Four lanes are better than two lanes/Good roads are important
- 7     **IMPROVES ECONOMY AND COMMUNITY:** It is for the town/Convenience of businesses locating/It will help the economy in the future/Roads in the community/New development for our communities/ Going to help businesses/Benefits everybody instead of government/Bring more businesses and jobs to the people/Increases land value of Columbia City
- 8     **NEEDED DOING:** It was an improvement that needed to be made/We needed it widened/Because it has been neglected for many years/It needed to be widened about 10 years ago/The road needed to be straightened out/Should have been done years ago
- 9     **OTHER:** Because I live here/Should have been done already/It will improve everything/ They have been taking a lot of taxes for roads and I'm glad to see it being used/Cheaper now than later/Rather spend it on the road than some other things
- 97    **REFUSED**
- 98    **DON'T KNOW**
- 99    **NO ANSWER/NOT A WISE USE**

**WISEUS3**

**Why (not/don't you think that the Highway 30 construction project is a wise use of taxpayers' money)?**

- 1     **SHOULD'VE LEFT IT ALONE:** It was fine before/You are putting 4 lanes through a town and St. Helens is better off with 2 lanes through it/We can do without a turning lane/I don't think there is that much improvement and I didn't notice any huge traffic problems before the project began/I thought the road was wide enough/They are going to have the same problem as before -- won't be any safer/It's okay -- who wants to pay more taxes?
- 2     **SPEND MONEY ON OTHER PROJECTS :** Better uses for tax dollars/Other things could have been done instead of just making a road wider/ They should have used the money to fix other roads/Would rather see it go to schools/My road needs to be fixed more than the highway does/Something better could have been done with the money/Because the schools are being gutted
- 3     **MONEY NOT USED WISELY:** Waste of money/Like the price they paid people to move/They have gone way over budget/Turning a freeway into a metropolitan area and we're going to have to fix it again/Taking too long -- one guy doing the work and three guys standing around/Don't take the opportunity to pour concrete on days when the weather is good because I know they can't pour concrete when it is raining/Process they have used is bad/Overbuilding what was actually needed/Road should go around towns not through them
- 4     **JUST DO PARTS OF IT:** Don't need to do so much at one time and screw everybody up
- 5     **RUINS RURAL NATURE :** Make towns be suburbs of Portland/It brings more population and traffic to our area/Putting the highway up to push a lot of new people in the area
- \* 6    **OTHER:** They're doing just what they did in Scappoose
- 7     **REFUSED**
- 8     **DON'T KNOW**
- 9     **NO ANSWER**

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\* Denotes a new category



**TRUST2**

**Why don't you trust them (some of the time)?**

- 1     **DON'T WORK QUICKLY:** Always work on it and nothing happens/Stuff is getting done but it seems like it should be done better and quicker/A problem takes a long time before they get to it/They don't pay particular attention to areas that need to be fixed in a timely manner/Things go a little longer than they should/I expect too much of them -- I think the road should be finished sooner/Because it takes too long for them to repair the roads and highways/They are a little slow in getting lines painted and the signs put up
  
- 2     **SPEND MONEY UNWISELY:** They like to put it in mass transit and I know quite a few people who use mass transit who get disgusted with it and would just as well find another way/ Government agency makes jobs for someone and then have to continue it/They do what they want -- they try to convince us that what has to be done is what they want to have to be done/They're a government agency that uses as much money as they can/Wasting taxpayers' money/Sometimes I think they are out to make a profit
  
- 3     **INCONSISTENT PLANNING :** Some of the time they fix things that don't need fixing and other times they don't fix what needs fixing/They say they are going to do something and it doesn't come to pass/Roads get fixed only where the political money is/Because of the planning of the road and high traffic areas/A political person gets more done where they lived than around here/ I had my questions about some of the decisions like closing Old Portland Road/I don't know what their long term plans are/ Because I see where they just don't do anything some of the time/I don't think they really know what the problems are/They are confined by a bunch of politicians who don't know what is going on instead of letting people like engineers do more planning
  
- 4     **WORKERS WASTE MONEY:** I've seen all kinds of construction workers go to work loaded and wouldn't want to be on something they did/A lot of times it looks like a lot of people standing around -- like ten people to hold a tool/See some of them sitting around even before lunch time/ When you see them they are mostly sitting in their cars/Sometimes you've got some drivers out there who don't know what they are doing/I don't trust their drivers
  
- 5     **POOR JOB OR NO REPAIR :** There's a lot of potholes on a lot of roads that need to be redone/The road I live on is pretty screwed up and been that way for years/Roads are bad and they are not maintained/ There are roads that need to be fixed better/I've seen them make repairs where the site was worse than before they repaired it/There is some roads that have been neglected for a long time/When we had the flood there were bridges washed out/Bridges aren't being cared for properly/They could make it a little smoother and easier for folks
  
- 6     **OTHER:** They don't consider community input and they don't consider the public/Just a bureaucratic agency/They are humans like you and I -- there is cover ups/I don't trust anyone
  
- 7     **REFUSED**
  
- 8     **DON'T KNOW**
  
- 9     **NO ANSWER**