

Raised center medians: An effective street safety tool

What is a raised center median?

A raised center median is a physical barrier between opposing lanes of auto traffic. Openings at certain locations allow people to walk, bike, or drive across the street, and to make U-turns (see illustration below).

Where is the Portland Bureau of Transportation putting medians on Division?

PBOT will replace the center turn lane with a median on two segments of SE Division Street (see map): 82nd to 92nd Ave., and 117th to 148th. The medians will include trees and allow for U-turns at certain locations.

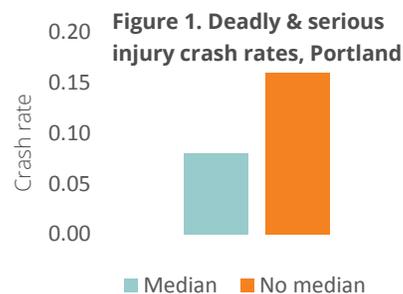
PBOT will design the medians in 2017 and install them in 2018. Your input will help shape the final design.



Why is PBOT adding medians to Division Street?

Medians prevent crashes involving people walking, biking, and driving. The rate of deadly and serious injury crashes is 38 percent lower on Portland street segments with medians compared to similar streets without medians. Medians also provide space for trees to grow and help prevent polluted water from reaching our rivers.

Community members have told PBOT they feel unsafe using Division Street. Comments at a community event in February included: "Many of the times, I feel lucky to be alive pulling out and onto Division." Traffic safety is a top priority for Portland and its Vision Zero program. The public has also asked for more greenery, which the medians will provide.



How do medians impact businesses?

Based on before-and-after studies of medians from across the country, the Federal Highway Administration has found the following effects:

- **Same or higher sales:** The "vast majority of businesses do as well or better" after medians are installed.
- **Positive driving experience:** Business customers report that their drive became "quicker, easier, and safer."
- **Easy U-turns:** "A majority of drivers have no problem making U-turns at median openings to get to businesses on the opposite side of the road."
- **Deliveries:** "Truck deliveries may be inconvenienced, at worst, but may in fact benefit from improved opportunities resulting from a change in access."

Source: U.S. Department of Transportation, "Safe access is good for business."

How can I help PBOT design the medians?

PBOT will hold public events this summer to gather input on the medians. Dates will be posted online at www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/division. You can also email divisionstreet@portlandoregon.gov.

In compliance with Civil Rights laws, it is the policy of the City of Portland that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any City program, service, or activity on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or disability. To help ensure equal access to City programs, services, and activities, the City of Portland reasonably provides: translation and interpretation services, modifications, accommodations, auxiliary aides and services, and alternative format. For these services, complaints, and additional information, contact 503-823-5831, use City TTY 503-823-6868, or use Oregon Relay Service: 711.

