

PBOT

PORTLAND BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION

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FAQ

Transit, Truck, and Turn lane pilot on MLK/Grand

What is a Transit, Truck, and Turn lane?

A transit and truck and turn lane is a travel lane providing preferential use for transit vehicles and trucks. Trucks and transit vehicles can travel in this lane. Personal vehicles can use the lane for accessing parking or turning right.

Where will a Transit, Truck, and Turn lane be installed?

This lane will be piloted on SE MLK Blvd. and SE Grand Blvd. between SE Mill St. and E. Burnside St.

Why is PBOT installing a Transit, Truck, and Turn lane?

This project was conceived during the Central City in Motion planning effort. TriMet's line 6 and the Portland Streetcar move thousands of commuters every day through the Central Eastside but are regularly experiencing delay due to congestion on MLK and Grand. A transit lane was proposed on these corridors and several Central Eastside stakeholders raised the notion of a shared transit/truck lane. PBOT staff have since further researched this idea and given the unique needs of the Central Eastside Industrial District, its proximity to I-84 and I-5, and that it is a major freight corridor in a designated freight district, PBOT is now moving forward with piloting a shared Transit and Truck lane with this project.

Will the Transit, Truck, and Turn lane have special striping?

The lane will have white striping and signage indicating it is a lane for preferential use of transit and trucks.

Why won't the Transit, Truck, and Turn lane be painted red like other bus lanes?

For citywide consistency, PBOT is opting not to paint this lane red as it is not an exclusive transit lane. PBOT has been installing red paint in areas throughout the city to improve transit speed and reliability. The use of red paint is limited to lanes that are exclusively for transit. We feel this approach will reduce confusion and increase compliance.

Who else may use or enter the Transit, Truck, and Turn lane?

People in cars who are turning right at the next block, people who are actively parking, and people who are turning right into a driveway may legally enter the transit and truck lane on a temporary basis.



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Have Transit and Truck lanes been installed anywhere else in the U.S.?

Yes, 14th street in New York City has a similar treatment.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/html/brt/html/routes/14th-street.shtml>

What is a “Truck” for purposes of having the ability to use the Transit and Truck lane?

ORS (Oregon Revised Statute) 468A.795 defines truck as a motor vehicle with a combined weight of over 14,000 pounds. Personal pickup trucks will not be permitted to travel in the lane.

Do preference/restrictions for trucks exist anywhere else in Portland’s traffic signage?

Yes, sometimes “no truck” sign is installed in residential areas. This sign may look familiar:



Most people understand that this sign means pickup trucks are still allowed to use the neighborhood street. The restriction is for large commercial trucks weighing over 14,000 pounds.

In terms of the transit and truck lane, the preferential access is for the use of commercial trucks weighing over 14,000 pounds. The intent is to improve freight operations in the Central Eastside while improving the speed and reliability of transit for Central Eastside commuters.

How will PBOT collect data and measure success of this pilot?

PBOT will be collecting data on driver compliance, transit travel speeds, transit reliability (on-time performance), crash frequency/severity, traffic volumes, and transit ridership throughout 2020.

In late 2020 this data will be publicly available and shared with stakeholders as we look to make decisions for the future of this corridor.

How will the Transit, Truck, and Turn lane be enforced?

Portland Police officers will enforce the Transit and Truck lane after an initial warning period.

What happens if I drive my personal or commercial pick-up truck in the Transit, Truck, and Turn lane?

This would be a violation of a regulatory traffic sign and you could be subject to a traffic citation. A pick-up truck, regardless of whether it is personal or commercial in nature, does not fit the legal definition of a “truck” which is defined as a vehicle weighing over 14,000 pounds.

Where can I find out more information?

Our website includes a brochure about proposed changes to the MLK/Grand corridors:

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/80087>

Rose Lane Project website: <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/transportation/80076>

Rose Lanes are Portland’s effort to improve transit speed and reliability citywide.