



Hanford Site Traffic Safety Improvements

In response to increased traffic safety concerns, the Department of Energy Richland Operations Office (DOE-RL) asked the Mission Support Alliance (MSA) to commission an independent study on the current state of Hanford roadways and to give the DOE specific recommendations for safety on the roadways. The MSA hired a highly reputable safety traffic and engineering consulting firm, Transportation Solutions, Inc. (TSI) of Redmond, Wash., to conduct the study.

TSI's study offered several recommendations to enhance safety. DOE-RL has directed MSA to implement the following recommendations that are expected to have the most immediate and greatest positive impact on improving traffic safety.

The intent of these enhancements is to improve driver safety, not to decrease commute time.

1. **Raising the speed limit on selected roadways from 55 to 60 mph.** Past studies have shown that this action can reduce traffic back-ups and decrease incidences of drivers passing multiple vehicles. Several studies also have shown that raising the limit to which drivers can most comfortably and confidently manage road conditions provides an overall safer driving experience. Evidence shows more people will stay in their lane if they feel like they are driving at the appropriate speed that the road was designed to handle. This will initially be tested from the Wye Barricade to Horn Rapids Road. (Started July 18, 2010)
2. **Make improvements to the intersection of Routes 3 and 4 South to provide right-turn and merge lanes to reduce congestion from traffic back-up.** (Expected to start in November 2010)
3. **Construction of "safety pull-outs/turn-outs" or shoulder-widening on Route 4 South,** to allow Benton County Sherriff's Department vehicles greater and safer access to site roads for performing safety enforcement actions. (Expected to start in November 2010)

As the MSA continues to make improvements, we will provide instructions on how drivers can provide additional feedback. Hanford Site worker feedback is essential for the MSA to determine which of these new intended safety improvements are working. Currently there is a mailbox in place to where drivers can send any concerns or comments they may have, located at: trafficsafety@rl.gov.

Drivers can find more information and an educational video on the traffic safety enhancements at: <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordTrafficSafety>

A link to the traffic study is also on the Web page.

Please remember to do your part in keeping yourself and other drivers safe.