

ANNOUNCEMENT

Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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To: ALL HANFORD EMPLOYEES

Subject: RESULTS OF INDEPENDENT HANFORD TRAFFIC SAFETY STUDY
AND NEXT STEPS

One of the most hazardous situations that most of us face each day is driving to and from work. Therefore, we are taking some immediate steps to improve safety on the site's roads.

In response to an increase in traffic safety concerns the Richland Operations Office (RL) asked Mission Support Alliance, LLC (MSA) to commission an independent study on the current state of Hanford roadways and to give RL specific recommendations for safety on the roadways. A highly reputable traffic safety and engineering consulting firm, Transportation Solutions, Inc. of Redmond, Washington, was hired and conducted the study.

The study took several months and involved substantial data gathering as well as interviews with Site employees. The Benton County Sheriff's Office (BCSO) was consulted. In parallel, the site-wide Traffic Safety Committee met regularly throughout the study. Safety Representatives from Hanford labor unions have been actively involved and provided input.

The study offered several recommendations. RL has directed MSA to implement, on a pilot basis, the following recommendations that are expected to have the greatest positive impact on improving traffic safety immediately.

- Conversion of Route 4 South from Canton Avenue (200 East Area) to the Wye Barricade to a one-way, two-lane road in the afternoon (outbound) peak travel period. Extending this one-way during the morning commute will be explored.
- Raising the speed limit on selected roadways from 55 to 60 mph has been shown to reduce traffic back-ups and decrease incidences of drivers passing multiple vehicles. Several studies have shown that raising the limit to the speed that road conditions can handle provides a safer experience for drivers. More people will stay in their lane because they feel like they're driving the speed that the road can handle.
- Improvements to the intersection of Routes 3 and 4 South to provide right-turn and merge lanes to reduce congestion from traffic back-up.
- Construction of "safety pull-outs/turn outs" or shoulder-widening on Route 4 South and Beloit Ave. (Rattlesnake Barricade entrance from Highway 240), to allow BCSO's vehicles greater and safer access to site roads for performing safety enforcement actions.

The intent of these enhancements is to improve your safety.

RL has asked MSA to begin these improvements immediately, and we expect the actions will be completed within the next few months. These changes will make driving on site safer.

These changes are being made on a pilot basis. As improvements are made, we will be providing instructions on how you can provide your feedback. Your feedback will be essential in determining which of these new intended improvements are working. However, there is already a mailbox in place to begin capturing your thoughts at trafficsafety@rl.gov.

A short briefing with more information on the traffic study that was conducted, along with RL's rationale for pursuing or not pursuing the study's recommendations, can be found at this link: <http://www.hanford.gov/files.cfm/TrafficSafetyBriefing.pdf> . A link to the traffic study is in the briefing.

Please remember do your part in keeping yourself and other drivers on the site safe.

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