

# Problem Statement

---

The intersection of US 101 and OR 6 does not safely provide mobility for cars, trucks, pedestrians and bicyclists in downtown Tillamook. Recognizing the important contribution of the intersection of two state highways to the movement of goods and people, the project will seek to balance the needs of through traffic movement with the community's vision for downtown Tillamook as a vital, pedestrian-oriented place.

Problems related to mobility and safety at the intersection of US 101 and OR 6 in downtown Tillamook were identified in the City of Tillamook's 2004 Transportation System Plan (TSP) and again in the 2006 Tillamook Transportation Refinement Plan (TTRP).

Specific problems in the study area include:

- **Gridlocked traffic.** Traffic congestion is exacerbated by short blocks where traffic queues regularly exceed storage available which leads to problems with how the system operates, even at intersections that meet ODOT's adopted mobility standards. This means that traffic waiting at a signal may backup through the previous intersection causing cars waiting at that signal to miss their opportunity to pull forward on a green light. This leads to increased delays for drivers throughout downtown Tillamook. Some stakeholders note that this gridlocked traffic leads to drivers cutting through adjacent neighborhoods.
- **Congestion.** The intersection of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and Main Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Main Avenue are expected to exceed ODOT's adopted mobility standard and will cause delay for travelers by 2030. The intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Main Avenue exceeds standards today. In addition, stakeholders report experiencing congestion at all four study intersections.
- **Safety.** Private driveways near intersections increase conflict points. The crash rate in the study area exceeds what is typical on other similar facilities in the state. The streets in the area are narrow which can lead to people in cars and trucks, either driving or parking, as well as on foot or on bike to feel unsafe. Bike facilities are not provided in the area though Highway 101 is designated as a bike route which can result in an environment that is not safe for cyclists. Some stakeholders say that these safety issues are compounded by unclear routes that can be confusing to those unfamiliar with the area. Some stakeholders note that frustration and time lost due to congestion downtown contributes to people driving too quickly once they leave downtown core.
- **Freight movement.** A relatively high proportion of traffic is comprised of medium and heavy trucks. The narrow streets in downtown Tillamook are not wide enough to safely accommodate large trucks particularly at intersections with sharp turning radii.
- **Economic vitality.** Downtown Tillamook lacks adequate safe and convenient parking to support businesses. The parking that is available on Main and Pacific avenues and 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> streets is unattractive for some customers because of the narrow travel lanes and high traffic volumes. Stakeholders report that trucks often hit parked cars on these streets.

