

Excerpt from the 1999 Oregon Highway Plan  
(including amendments November 1999 through May 2015)

*Action 1F.5*

For purposes of evaluating amendments to transportation system plans, acknowledged comprehensive plans and land use regulations subject to OAR 660-12-0060, in situations where the volume to capacity ratio or alternative mobility target for a highway segment, intersection or interchange is currently above the mobility targets in Table 6 or Table 7 or those otherwise approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission, or is projected to be above the mobility targets at the planning horizon, and transportation improvements are not planned within the planning horizon to bring performance to the established target, the mobility target is to avoid further degradation. If an amendment subject to OAR 660-012-0060 increases the volume to capacity ratio further, or degrades the performance of a facility so that it does not meet an adopted mobility target at the planning horizon, it will significantly affect the facility unless it falls within the thresholds listed below for a small increase in traffic.

In addition to the capacity increasing improvements that may be required to mitigate impacts, other performance improving actions to consider include, but are not limited to:

- System connectivity improvements for vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians.
- Transportation demand management (TDM) methods to reduce the need for additional capacity.
- Multi-modal (bicycle, pedestrian, transit) opportunities to reduce vehicle demand.
- Operational improvements to maximize use of the existing system.
- Land use techniques such as trip caps / budgets to manage trip generation.

In applying “avoid further degradation” for state highway facilities already operating above the mobility targets in Table 6 or Table 7 or those otherwise approved by the Oregon Transportation Commission, or facilities projected to be above the mobility targets at the planning horizon, a small increase in traffic does not cause “further degradation” of the facility.

The threshold for a small increase in traffic between the existing plan and the proposed amendment is defined in terms of the increase in total average daily trip volumes as follows:

- Any proposed amendment that does not increase the average daily trips by more than 400.
- Any proposed amendment that increases the average daily trips by more than 400 but less than 1001 for state facilities where:
  - The annual average daily traffic is less than 5,000 for a two-lane highway
  - The annual average daily traffic is less than 15,000 for a three-lane highway
  - The annual average daily traffic is less than 10,000 for a four-lane highway
  - The annual average daily traffic is less than 25,000 for a five-lane highway
- If the increase in traffic between the existing plan and the proposed amendment is more than 1000 average daily trips, then it is not considered a small increase in traffic and the amendment causes further degradation of the facility and would be subject to existing processes for resolution.

In applying OHP mobility targets to analyze mitigation, ODOT recognizes that there are many variables and levels of uncertainty in calculating volume-to-capacity ratios, particularly over a specified planning horizon. After negotiating reasonable levels of mitigation for actions required under OAR 660-012-0060, ODOT considers calculated values for v/c ratios that are within 0.03 of the adopted target in the OHP to be considered in compliance with the target. The adopted mobility target still applies for determining significant affect under OAR 660-012-0060.