

Hello COACT Board:

My name is Linda Wallace and I live in SE Bend near the intersection of Hwy 20 and Hamby / Ward. As you may know, there was a fatal accident at this intersection in December last year, and there have been many serious crashes there in the past.

This intersection is located one mile SE from 27th St at the edge of town and is very busy during certain times of day. Cross traffic from Ward and Hamby have stop signs where lines of cars and trucks often get backed up and drivers become impatient. The speed limit was recently reduced on Hwy 20 in this area but it will likely have little effect because data shows the majority of crashes in the past were caused by drivers failing to yield the right of way. I am cautious when approaching this intersection because of how dangerous it is. I have experienced drivers pulling out onto the highway from cross streets when it isn't safe and nearly causing an accident.

I spoke with Joel McCarroll at ODOT, and he said this intersection is on the list of Deschutes County prioritized improvements. He recommended that I come here today to make public comment about the need for a traffic safety solution like a roundabout for this intersection. This intersection has similar traffic safety issues as Powell Butte Hwy and Neff Rd that was recently improved with a roundabout. He mentioned the capital improvement campaign for 2021-2024 which will be discussed at this meeting today and the intersection may be included. I also followed up with Dan Serpico, ODOT Sr Traffic Analyst, and he provided data and information about prior crashes at the intersection. There were 20 reported crashes in the most recent 5 years of crash data between 1/1/2012 to 12/31/2016 from one tenth of a mile (0.1 mile) on either side of the intersection – see below.

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