



Real-time Traveler Information

INTELLIGENT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS IN THE PORTLAND METROPOLITAN REGION

Where are the traffic jams? When is the bus coming? Websites and hot lines from ODOT and TriMet provide knowledge, power.

BENEFITS

Mobility: Real-time information about traffic conditions helps drivers avoid delays or gives them peace of mind.

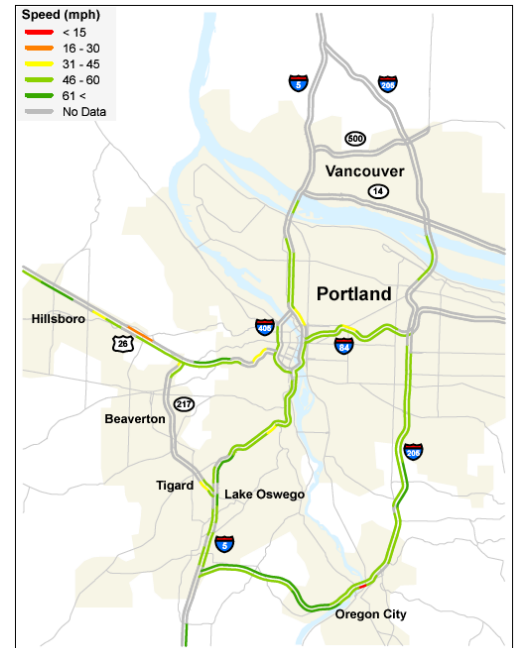
Safety: Real-time information about snow, ice and other hazards helps drivers avoid or be prepared for danger.

Cost effectiveness: Public agencies have expertise to collect data and private media have skills to publish it.

Construction zones, breakdowns, parades and other disruptions often add to existing congestion levels but the impact on travel time is generally hard to predict. For time-sensitive trips, including the delivery of goods, this uncertainty easily turns into wasted time. Leave too early and time is wasted at the destination; leave too late and the delivery or appointment is missed. The solution to this problem involves creating and providing information to travelers in real-time so that they can know what is happening and possibly adjust their plans.

In Portland, the primary forms of real-time traveler information come from the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and TriMet. ODOT's service, called TripCheck, includes a hotline (511 from any phone) and a webpage (www.tripcheck.com). The webpage, for example, allows users to view live traffic cameras, check weather stations, and use the "speed map" to identify congested highways.

For TriMet Riders, GPS devices on every bus and MAX mean it is possible to forecast the actual arrival time of any vehicle in the system. The information is available online (www.trimet.org/transittracker/) or by phone (238-RIDE). The value of the service means a rider can spend less time waiting at the curb or at least knows when the bus will actually arrive.



ODOT's TripCheck Speed Map shows real-time traffic conditions for area highways.

Both ODOT and TriMet work with partners in the private sector to disseminate the information. The TripCheck speed map is a fixture of morning television news and Google uses Transit Tracker data to let users compare, in real time, the time and cost of driving with taking transit. These partnerships create cost-effective win-win relationships, especially for the traveling public.



TriMet's Transit Tracker allows transit riders to find out when buses will actually come.

For more information, visit www.metro-region.org

