

# Traffic Safety

## Joint Transportation Committee

Dongho Chang, State Traffic Engineer  
May 19, 2022

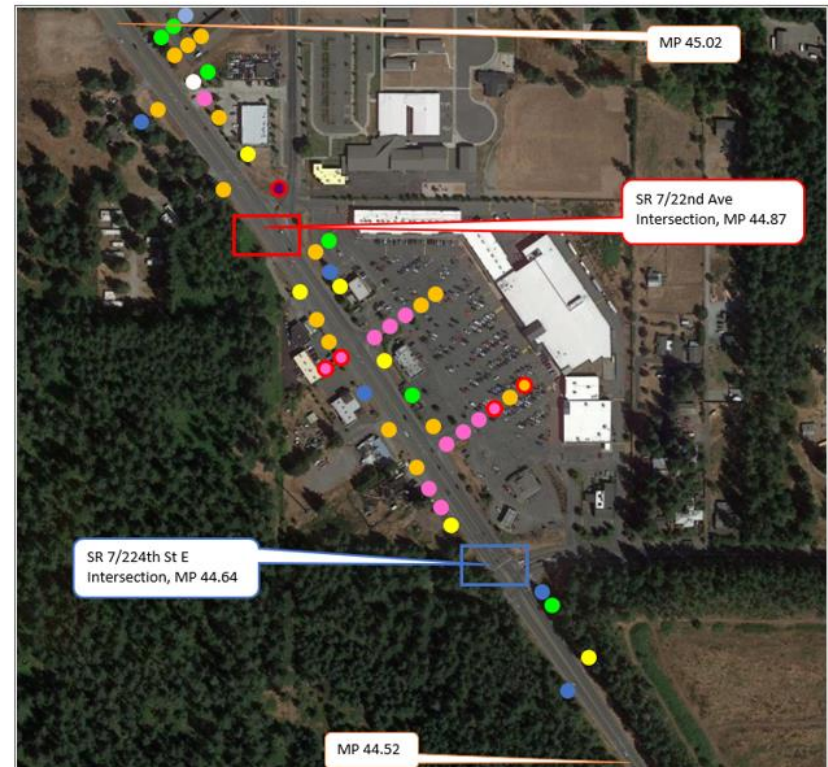
Roger Millar, Secretary of Transportation

Amy Scarton, Deputy Secretary of Transportation

# Safe System Approach

## SR 7 fatal and serious collision review

- Six-mile section in Spanaway/Elk Plain
- Increasing development

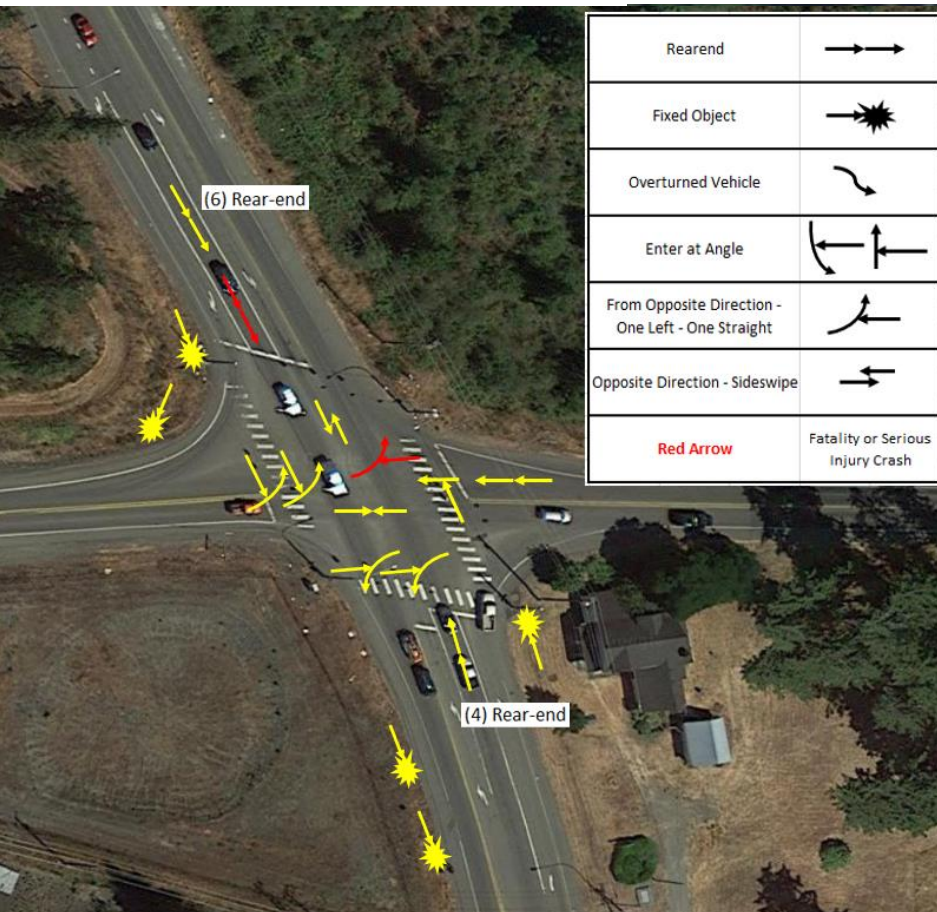


Rear-end	●	Same Direction Sideswipe	●	Vehicle Hits Bicycle	●
Opposite Direction - Head-on	○	At Angle	●	Vehicle Hits Pedestrian	●
Opposite Direction - One Straight, One Turning Left	●	Opposite Direction Sideswipe	●	Fixed Object	●

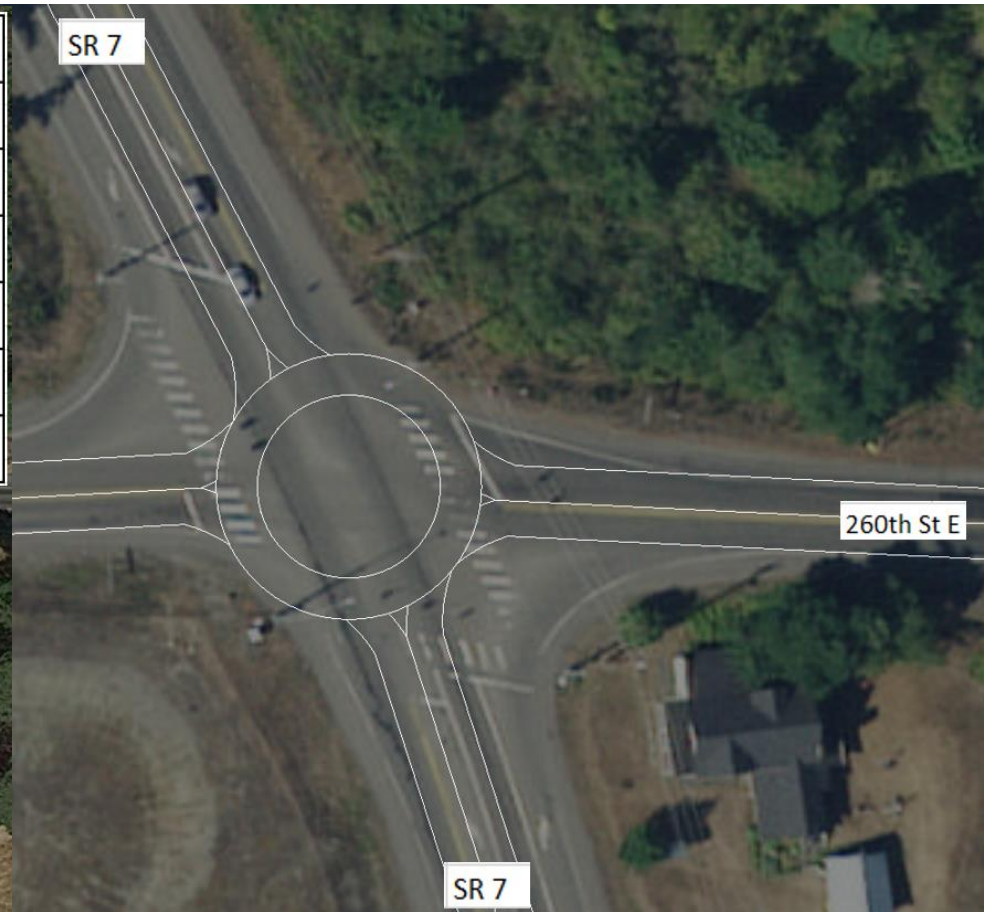
# Safe System Approach

## Compact roundabout option

- Benefit of 300% compared with costs
- Gateway and safer operating speed



Rearend	→ →
Fixed Object	→ ✦
Overtured Vehicle	→ ↪
Enter at Angle	↙ ↘
From Opposite Direction - One Left - One Straight	← ↘
Opposite Direction - Sideswipe	← →
<b>Red Arrow</b>	Fatality or Serious Injury Crash

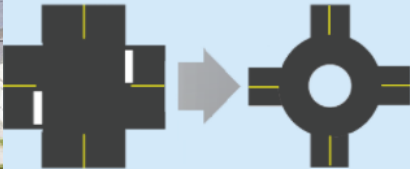


# Roundabouts- FHWA proven safety countermeasure



Source: City of Carmel, IN

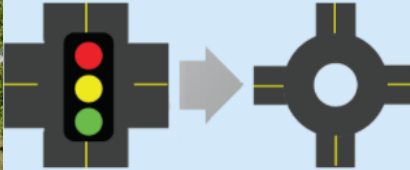
Two-Way Stop-Controlled Intersection to a Roundabout



**82%**

Reduction in fatal and injury crashes<sup>1</sup>

Signalized Intersection to a Roundabout



**78%**

Reduction in fatal and injury crashes<sup>1</sup>

1. AASHTO. The Highway Safety Manual, American Association of State Highway Transportation Professionals, Washington, D.C., (2010).

# Mattawa WA- SR 243

- 65 mph
- 21 crashes (2007-2012)
- 22 serious injuries, 2 fatalities



# Mattawa WA- SR 243

- Roundabout identified as an option
- Constructed in 2014
- No fatal/serious injury crash (7 years)



# Selection of Proven Safety Countermeasures

## SPEED MANAGEMENT



Speed Safety Cameras



Variable Speed Limits



Appropriate Speed Limits for All Road Users

## PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLIST



Crosswalk Visibility Enhancements



Bicycle Lanes



Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons

## ROADWAY DEPARTURE



Wider Edge Lines



Enhanced Delineation for Horizontal Curves

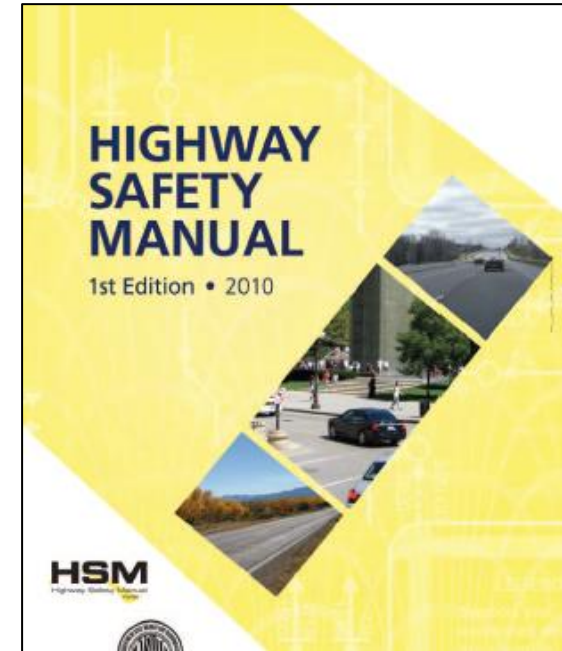


Longitudinal Rumble Strips and Stripes

Source: FHWA

# Crash Modification Factor: Formation Tool

- Agency developed\* assessment tool to calculate Crash Reduction
  - Methodology from Federal Highway Safety Manual
  - Supports between 1-1,000 sites
  - Supports up to 10 yrs B & 5 yrs A
    - Flexible to evaluate on an annual basis to anticipate trends



\* Developed by Kelvin Daratha, Clay Peterman, Dina Swires



# Evaluating Effectiveness Using Local Data

Intersection Conflict Warning System

Clearinghouse CMF = 0.52 (~48% crash reduction)

WSDOT CMF = 1.12 (~12% increase in crashes!!)

Vehicle  
waiting  
at stop  
sign



# Evaluating Effectiveness

## Better Data = Better Decisions

Prepare To Stop When Flashing system

Clearinghouse CMF = 0.81 (~19% crash reduction)

WSDOT CMF = 0.75 (~25% crash reduction)

Implementation details were noted/standardized



# Evaluating Effectiveness

## Better Data = Better Decisions

High Friction Surface Treatment

Clearinghouse CMF = 0.43 (~57% crash reduction)

WSDOT CMF = 0.074 (~92% crash reduction)  
(low sample size)



# Low-Cost Enhancements Rainier Ave and I-90



*Before: aerial of ramp with two full-time lanes, a general-purpose lane, and an HOV bypass*



*After: ramp reduced to a single-lane entrance with a metered shoulder downstream of the striping*

# Aurora Avenue (SR 99) and N 92<sup>nd</sup> St

- 92<sup>nd</sup> 6 crashes (3yrs prior to project). No crashes (16 months after)
- 88<sup>th</sup>-94<sup>th</sup> (26% drop in all crashes, 47% drop in injury crashes)



Source: City of Seattle

# School Crossings

	Graham Hill	Highland Park	Olympic Hills
Change in speeding over 25 mph	-79%	-73%	-88%
Change in speeding over 35 mph	-80%	-81%	-91%



Source: City of Seattle

# Question?

For additional information on  
Traffic Safety, please contact:

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