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SR 10/SR 110 and U.S. 31 J-Turn Projects - Frequently Asked Questions

Why J-Turns?

J-turns greatly reduce – or even eliminate -- a significant number of severe crashes common when drivers must cross-over busy highways to reach another road. Although drivers will have to travel slightly further to get where they want to go, using J-turns can take the same or less time than trying to wait for a safe gap to cross traffic. Put simply, J-turns save lives.

Can semi-trucks, farm equipment and school buses use J-turns safely?

Yes, J-turns are constructed to accommodate large vehicles, such as semis and school buses. Large vehicles can benefit from J-turns over traditional intersections because in a traditional intersection they often have to wait for all four lanes of cross traffic to clear before turning left, due to not enough room in a median crossover.

Aren't the intersections of SR 10 and SR 110 too busy for J-turns?

No, J-turns have been implemented successfully in areas across the U.S., commonly on four-lane divided highways like U.S. 31, some with traffic volumes nearly double seen here.

Aren't J-turns dangerous for Amish community members who use horse drawn carriages?

The State is aware that members of the Amish community utilize U.S. 31 and other state highways in the area, and INDOT is committed to be responsive to the need to design infrastructure to be used safely by horse drawn carriages.

On both SR 10 and SR 110, the J-Turns will maintain refuge area off US 31 travel lanes, while the current refuge is in center crossover area. This means horse drawn carriages will not be travelling in the main travel lanes.

Why spend money on J-turns if INDOT may come back and build interchanges in the future?

J-turns are a cost-effective solution that will save lives and reduce travel time by eliminating traffic signals. J-turns can be built in one construction season and cost as little as 5-percent of the cost of an interchange. An average interchange can take multiple years to design and build. J-turns make the road safer now while leaving the option to build an interchange on the table.

Most everyone agrees on the need to make these intersections safer. J-turns and other improvements will help INDOT and the communities along these routes achieve those objectives.

INDOT has a responsibility to increase safety – which J-turns do – while responsibly spending taxpayer dollars.