BACKGROUND

The bike scramble signal on the corner of N Interstate Avenue and Oregon Street was installed by the City of Portland Office of Transportation (PDOT) and activated on April 8th, 2004. The purpose of the signal was to improve traffic conditions and safety at that intersection for bicyclists by allowing protected movement for bicycles. This intersection is a very unique application and is possibly the only one of its kind in the U.S.

RESEARCH

The objective of this project is to assess how the intersection is operating, how often it is used, and then to analyze the data and observations to conclude how effective the signal has been.

Data was gathered before and after through observations, bicyclist tallies, and video surveillance.

FINDINGS

After the scramble signal was installed, the percentage of cyclists illegally passing through the intersection has fallen from 71.8% to 4.2%. A concern of PDOT had been the number of illegal right turns (by drivers) occurring when the scramble signal was active. For the counts completed in this project, there were 30 illegal right turns for 895 scramble signals activated, or 3.3%.

CONCLUSIONS

The study of this unique intersection shows how creativity and working with the community can produce a positive change for motorists and bicycle users alike. The usage of the scramble signal by bicyclists has increased to more than double the volume in a little over two years. The project has effectively improved traffic conditions, as well as the safety for cyclists who use this intersection.