

# RAINIER AVENUE S ROAD SAFETY CORRIDOR PROJECT

NOVEMBER 2014

Rainier Avenue South is a principal arterial street that facilitates the regional movement of people and goods. Rainier Avenue is also “Main Street” for southeast Seattle supporting a diverse collection of retail shopping, restaurants, schools, parks, and activity centers.

## TRAFFIC VOLUMES

Vehicular traffic volumes range from 19,700 to 26,600 vehicles per weekday. Volumes fluctuate annually but have remained in this range since 2008. King County Metro’s Route 7 serves more than 11,000 riders every day – the busiest route in the County. In addition, thousands of pedestrians cross or walk along Rainier daily and bicyclists cross Rainier or use the roadway as a primary route.

## SPEEDS

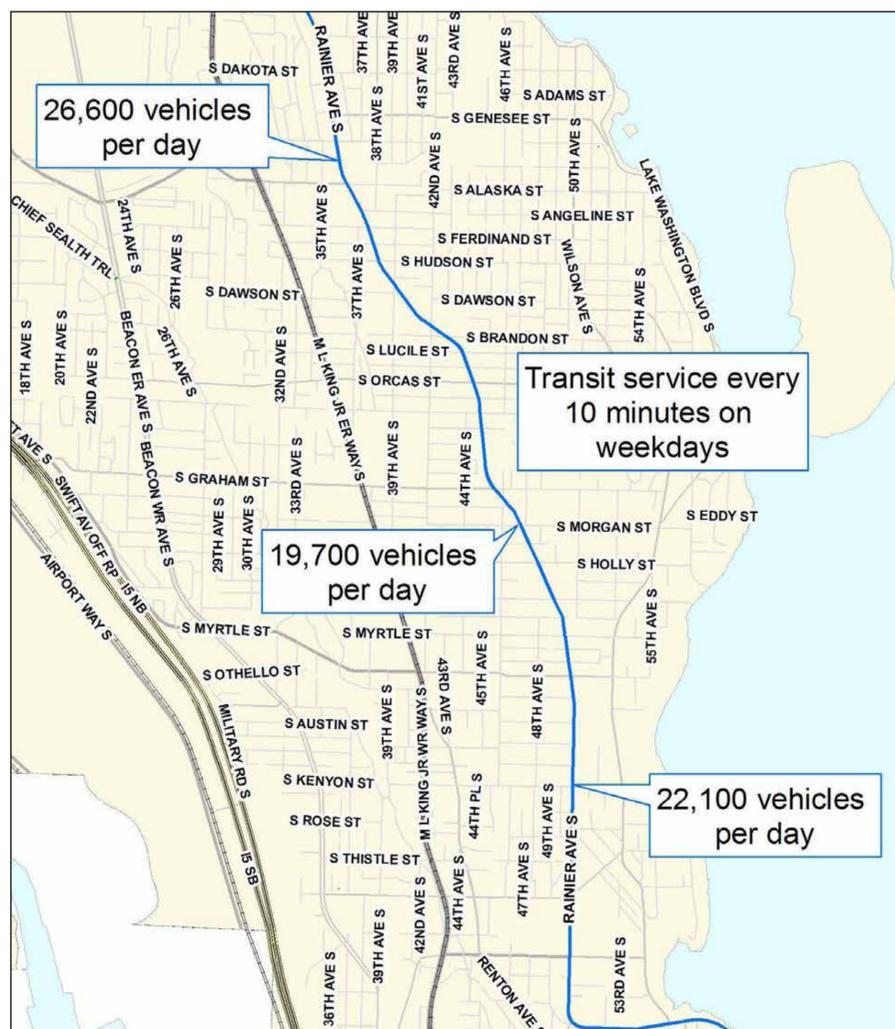
Vehicular speeds on Rainier Avenue South significantly exceed the posted speed limit of 30 mph in most locations. At S Cloverdale Street the majority of drivers exceed the speed limit by more than five miles per hour. At S Holly Street, most drivers travel at or below 37 mph. Nearly 6 percent of drivers exceed the posted speed limit by 10 miles per hour or more at S Holly Street.

Speeds near the busy Columbia City and Hillman City business areas remain higher than the posted speed limit. The majority of drivers travel at nearly 38 miles per hour at 42nd Avenue South and 35 miles per hour at S Hudson Street.

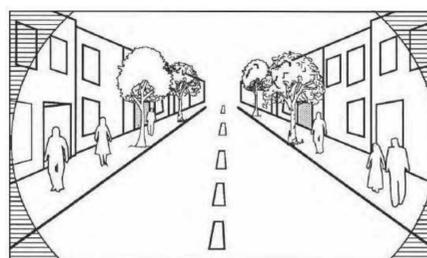
## WHY SPEED MATTERS

One out of every three collisions in Seattle involves speeding. Speeding increases the severity of collisions. Speed makes it more difficult for drivers to recognize potential hazards and increases the time and distance it takes to bring a vehicle to a stop.

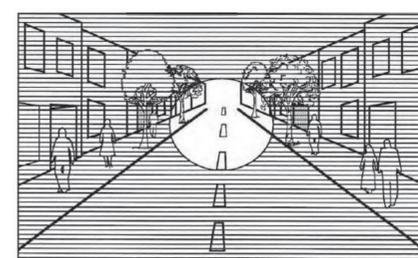
Speed is especially lethal for vulnerable users like pedestrians and people on bikes. A pedestrian hit at 40 miles per hour has a 90 percent chance of dying. Pedestrians are much more likely to survive a collision with a vehicle at 20 miles per hour.



Location	85th Percentile Speed	Percent Speeding (3+ mph over the speed limit)	Average number of high-end speeders per weekday
S Hudson Street	35 mph	20%	611/day
42nd Avenue South	38 mph	55%	1812/day
S Holly Street	37 mph	56%	1083/day
S Cloverdale Street	36 mph	38%	1083/day



Drivers' Field of Vision at 15 mph



Drivers' Field of Vision at 30 mph

Drivers' ability to see their surroundings, react to changing conditions and bring their vehicle to a stop decreases with speed

HIT BY A VEHICLE TRAVELING AT:

# 20 MPH

9 out of 10 pedestrians survive

HIT BY A VEHICLE TRAVELING AT:

# 30 MPH

5 out of 10 pedestrians survive

HIT BY A VEHICLE TRAVELING AT:

# 40 MPH

Only 1 out of 10 pedestrians survives

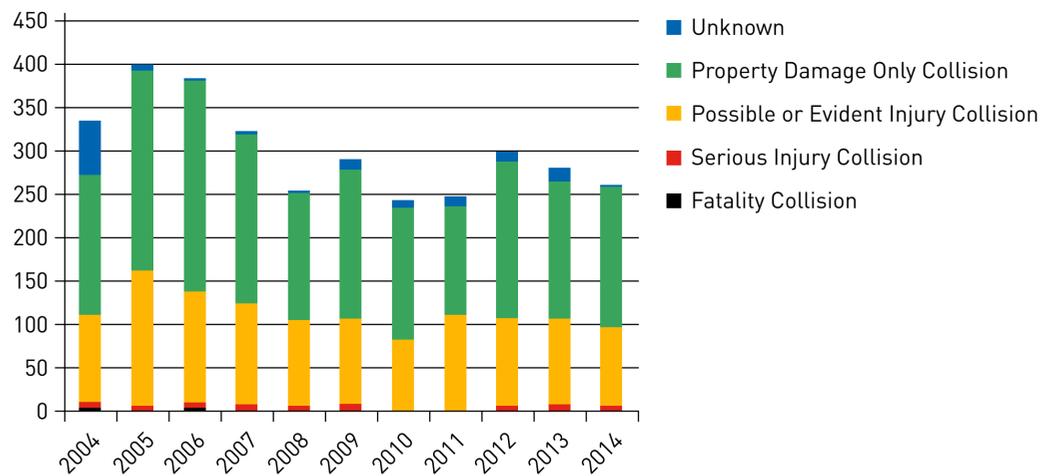
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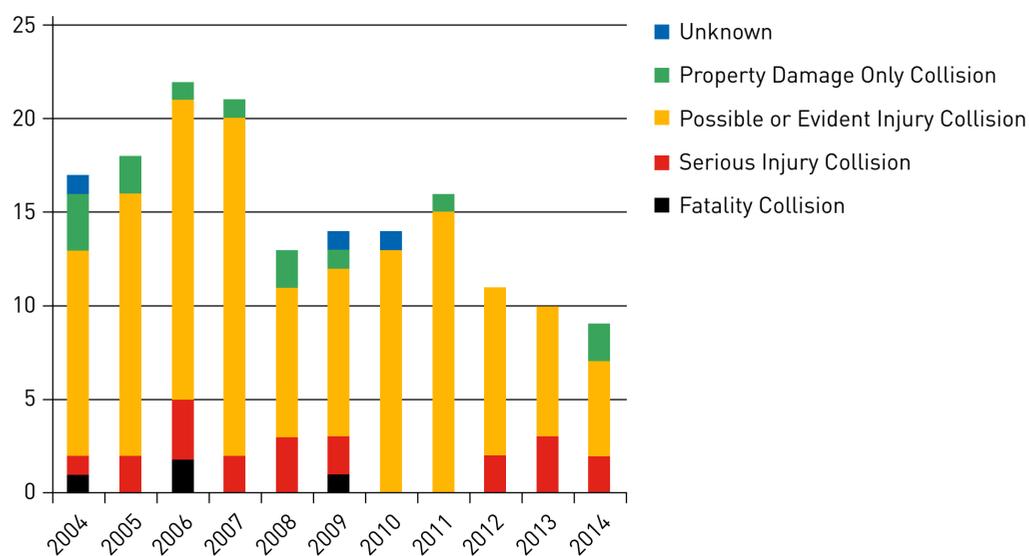
## COLLISIONS

Nearly 3600 collisions occurred on Rainier between January 2004 and October 2014. This includes more than 1200 total collisions in the past three years. Rainier averages 1 crash every day and collisions have resulted in 630 injuries and two fatalities in the last three years on the corridor.

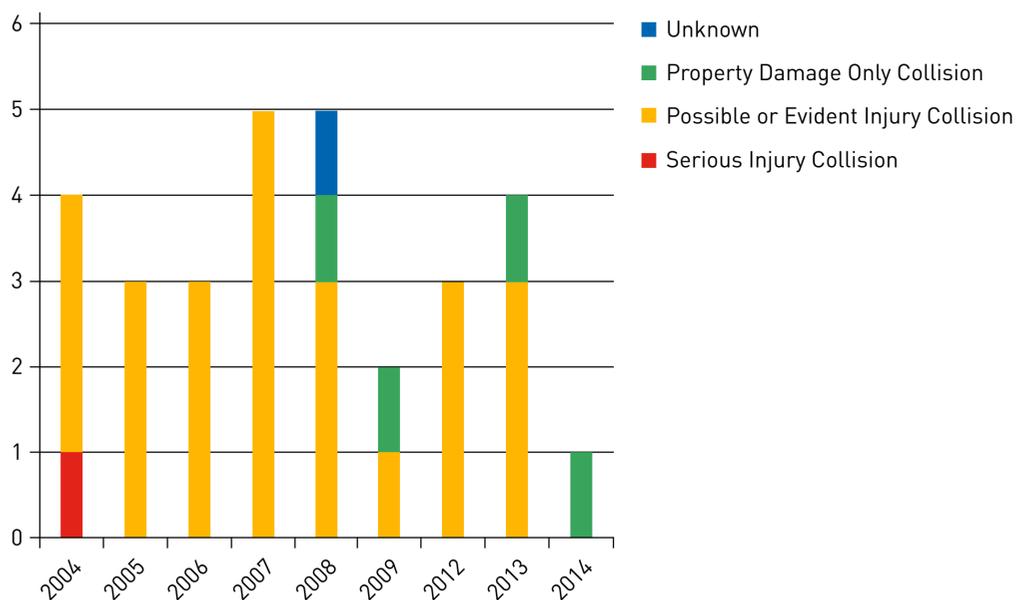
Each year, between 10 and 25 pedestrians and two to five bicyclists are involved in collisions on Rainier. As shown in the table below, the likelihood of injury is nearly 100 percent in pedestrian and bicycle collisions.



Annual Collisions - 2004 through 10/2014 (all collisions)



Annual Pedestrian Collisions



Annual Bicycle Collisions  
(No bicycle collisions occurred in 2010 and 2011 on Rainier)