

# SPIS (Safety Priority Index System)

## Safety & Operations

**SPIS is one of six safety and operations factors ODOT may consider when evaluating a highway approach application.**

### Points of Interest

What is the Safety Priority Index System (SPIS)?

Why is ODOT concerned about SPIS?

Where can I find more information about SPIS?

**What is the Safety Priority Index System (SPIS)?** The SPIS is a systemic scoring method that identifies potential safety problems on state highways. The SPIS score is based on three years of crash data and considers crash frequency, crash rate, and crash severity. A highway segment becomes a SPIS site if a location has: **1)** three or more crashes **OR;** **2)** one or more fatal crashes, over the three-year period.

SPIS evaluates overlapping highway segments, so a single location may be reported in multiple segments. ODOT screens these SPIS segments annually to identify and prioritize which have potential for safety improvements and merit further investigation.

## Why is ODOT concerned about SPIS scores in approach permitting?

When ODOT reviews an approach permit application, we review SPIS scores to determine whether a proposed approach is located on a highway segment with a SPIS score in the top five percent of SPIS sites.

- SPIS is a flagging tool and requires further investigation and sound engineering judgment to determine whether a safety and operations concern exists.
- If a proposed approach is within a top five percent SPIS site, crashes may not be occurring at or near the proposed approach location at all.
- ODOT looks at how the proposed approach would affect the reason there is a top five percent SPIS site near by.

- ✓ SPIS sites are generally one tenth of a mile section on the state highway system.
- ✓ ODOT generates reports of the top ten percent SPIS sites and investigates the top five percent of SPIS sites each year.
- ✓ ODOT evaluates the safety problems which may contribute to the crash history at the SPIS locations.
- ✓ If a correctable safety problem is identified, ODOT does a cost and benefit analysis to identify possible solutions and initiates appropriate improvement projects.

**For help understanding SPIS and to find the contact information for the Region SPIS Investigators click on the following link:**

[Safety Priority Index System \(SPIS\)](#)

Sample of the statewide SPIS map

