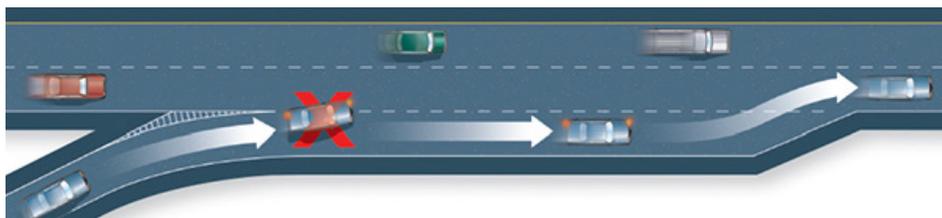
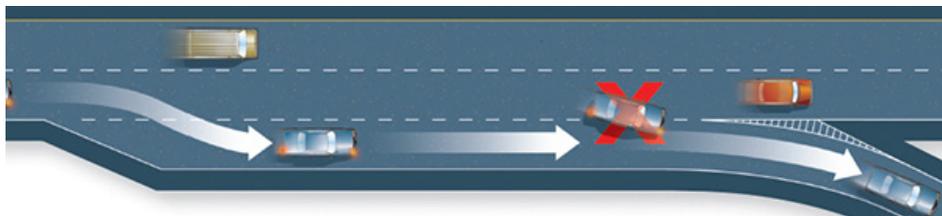




## ACCELERATION/DECELERATION LANES



ACCELERATION LANE



DECELERATION LANE

### COST



### TIME



MODERATE

### IMPACT



### WHO



CITY/STATE

### HURDLES

RIGHT-OF-WAY,  
INSTITUTIONAL

### SUCCESS STORIES



#### US 290 Northwest Freeway, Houston

Auxiliary lanes

were added to several locations along US 290 resulting in the removal of several traffic bottlenecks.



#### IH 394 Freeway, Minneapolis

Among several low-cost improvements,

a westbound auxiliary lane at Louisiana Ave. almost eliminated evening peak congestion.

Increased  
traffic volume  
handled by

# 10%



### Description

Acceleration/deceleration lanes (also known as speed change lanes) provide drivers with an opportunity to speed up or slow down in a space not used by high-speed through traffic. On freeways and some major streets, the speed change between the mainlanes and the adjacent streets can be substantial and cause stop-and-go traffic and more collisions for the main vehicle flow. Dedicated acceleration lanes allow cars that have turned onto the main road to speed up to match the flow of traffic.

### Target Market

- Freeway ramp areas between entrances and exits.
- Major streets with fast speeds and high turning volumes.
- Freeway interchange ramps.

Speed change lanes reduce congestion in areas where drivers are required to make dramatic speed changes because of turns or merges.

### How Will This Help?

- **Increases traffic flow and speed** on freeways and major streets.
- **Increases intersection capacity and efficiency** by adding lanes for turning at intersections.
- **Improves safety.**

### Implementation Issues

Lane space and right-of-way are the primary design issues. Converting the current shoulders to useable lanes may require adding width (possibly requiring acquisition of right-of-way and higher costs) and pavement structural strength.

The most significant implementation barrier is often the assignment of institutional responsibility. DOT priorities may be focused on larger or more sophisticated programs instead of looking for locations where low-cost treatments can be installed. The contributions that acceleration/deceleration lanes might make may be overlooked.



**More Information:** [tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion](http://tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion)