



## INTERSECTION TURN LANES



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

### Description

Turns at street and driveway intersections, especially on roads with through traffic, can cause delays and decrease safety. Installing a turn lane can significantly improve the intersection.

Intersection turn-lane improvements could include:

- Dedicated left-turn and right-turn lanes.
- Deceleration and acceleration lanes.
- Space to handle turning traffic away from the through traffic.

### Target Market

Turn lanes are most commonly considered when:

- Speeds are too high to turn safely to or from a roadway.
- There is a pattern of rear-end, sideswipe, or weaving crashes when through vehicles conflict with turning vehicles.
- Drivers have to wait a long time to make a turn.
- There is a high number of turning vehicles.

### How Will This Help?

- **Decreases congestion and maximizes the available roadway space** by allowing a smoother flow of traffic.
- **Increases safety** through fewer collisions.

### Implementation Issues

Lane space and right of way are the main issues with adding turn lanes. Changing the current shoulders to useable lanes may require making the pavement wider and stronger. If the shoulder cannot be used, the road will need to be widened. This may require additional right of way and higher construction costs.

Adding turn lanes to complex, dated, or elevated roadway designs is even more difficult and expensive. Right-of-way limits at intersections may require a complete rebuild or different design.

### COST



### TIME



### IMPACT



### WHO



### HURDLES



RIGHT-OF-WAY

### SUCCESS STORIES



A Federal Highway Administration study showed **adding left-turn lanes reduced crashes:**

▼ **7–47%**  
in urban areas.

▼ **18–48%**  
in rural areas.

Most research on **left-turn lanes** found, on average, a

▲ **25% in capacity**  
for roadways that added a left-turn lane.

