REVERSIBLE TRAFFIC LANES

Description
Reversible traffic lanes change direction based on peak congestion times. Reversing lanes reduces congestion:
• During morning and evening commutes.
• When there is an incident blocking a lane of traffic.
• Before and after a special event.
• When construction or maintenance is being done on the road.

Reversible traffic lanes add capacity to a road by borrowing from the other (off-peak) direction.

Roads can be adjusted to become a one-way street or have one middle lane operate in the peak direction. Changeable message signs and/or arrows show these adjustments at specified times of the day or when volume exceeds certain limits.

Target Market
• Roads with congested work zone areas or incidents.
• Roads with highly directional congestion.

Implementation Issues
Proper communication and public participation are crucial to reversible lane success. Local agencies should identify

How Will This Help?
• Reduces congestion by borrowing capacity from the other direction.
• Increases safety in work zones.
• Postpones the need to add capacity through conventional lane additions.
• Accelerates evacuation during weather events or other natural disasters.

SUCCESS STORIES

Arlington, Texas
The city installed reversible lanes to ease congestion around two professional sports stadiums:
• FM 157/Collins Street.
• SH 180/Division Street.
• Road to Six Flags Street.

The best locations for implementation and ensure the public understands the concept and operation.

The endpoint treatment requires particular care and attention; common treatments extend across an intersection, requiring complex signals and inefficient timing strategies. If poorly executed, these intersections may become expensive and confusing. Locating a safe mid-block left turn across the favored travel direction can also be difficult. Impacted businesses may complain of denial to traffic. Also, there is more potential for crashes depending on left-turn demand, mid-block geometric conditions, and large groupings of vehicles in the favored traffic direction.

More Information: tti.tamu.edu/policy/how-to-fix-congestion

Traffic Management

COST

TIME

IMPACT

WHO

HURDLES

SUCCESS STORIES