

Specialty Lanes and Highways Keep America Moving

Ten Options That Enhance Our Highway System



Price

can require overhead gantries and transponders



Vehicle or Occupancy Eligibility

limited to specific vehicle classes or minimum number of passengers



High-Occupancy Toll (HOT) Lanes

Offer free access to carpools and motorcycles, but require tolls for lower-occupant drivers. Many are converted high-occupancy vehicle lanes.

1995–1996

California develops the first HOT lanes.

31
FACILITIES
NATIONWIDE



Express Toll Lanes (ETL)

Use electronic tolling and may offer discounts for carpools. Some allow vanpools and transit vehicles to travel toll-free.

22
FACILITIES
NATIONWIDE



General Toll Roads, Bridges, and Turnpikes

Use open, closed, or electronic tolling. The nearly 47,000-mile Interstate System includes over 2,900 miles of adopted turnpike mileage. This allows connectivity in some corridors without building redundant Federal highways. Otherwise, toll roads, generally speaking, are autonomous facilities compared to the Federal system.

275
FACILITIES
NATIONWIDE



Truck-Only Lanes

Separates trucks from general traffic, giving needed distance to move across lanes.

5
FACILITIES
NATIONWIDE



Bus-Only Lanes

Dedicated lanes on highways and freeways for buses and transit vehicles only.

3
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High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes

Offer free access to carpools and motorcycles. Allow some electric vehicles with decals. Many are single lanes that run parallel to general purpose lanes and are separated by a barrier.

1969

The Henry G. Shirley Memorial Highway in Northern Virginia opens as a bus-only lane.

97
FACILITIES
NATIONWIDE



Static Part-Time Shoulder Use Lanes (S-PTSU)

13

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Open on a preestablished schedule during recurring peak times.



Dynamic Part-Time Shoulder Use Lanes (D-PTSU)

6

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Open to vehicles as needed at times selected by an operator. Open or closed status marked by dynamic signs at shoulder entry.



Permission

allows use
during
specific times
of day



Bus-on-Shoulder Lanes

Promote transit use by providing conditional shoulder access to stay on schedule.

1970s

Washington becomes the first state to allow buses to use shoulder lanes to bypass congestion.

46

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Non-Toll Express Lanes

Allow vehicles to bypass local exits on longer trips. May provide barriers from general purpose lanes.

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Check out the **2021 National Inventory of Specialty Lanes and Highways** for information on how many specialty lanes exist in the United States, the types of special services they offer, and where they are located.

Available at bit.ly/specialtylanes



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration