

High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes



What Are HOV Lanes?

HOV lanes are typically dedicated for buses, carpools (two or more occupants), vanpools, motorcycles, right-turning vehicles, and emergency vehicles. HOV lanes can move traffic through congested areas, resulting in **travel time savings, better travel time reliability, and improved air quality.**

Key Elements of HOV Lanes on Arterial Roadways

- Most HOV lanes operate in a **curbside lane** with bus bays.
- HOV lanes work well with a **maximum HOV volume of 200 to 400** vehicles per hour (Source: Texas Transportation Institute).
- **Markings and signings** help manage the interaction between vehicles.
- **Education and enforcement** programs are critical to the success of the operations.

Education & Enforcement Concepts:

- Brochures mailed to residences
- HOV lane performance reports
- Regulation by police
- Self-enforcement hotline

Example Arterial HOV Lanes

HOV lanes have been implemented on arterial roadways for over 30 years in the U.S. and Canada. Two HOV systems in place today are shown below and operate 24 hours a day in curbside lanes.

SR 99 HOV Project - Federal Way and Kent, WA

Phased project on 14-mile long corridor



Highway 97 HOV Project - Kelowna, BC

Four-mile long corridor with future BRT

