

Choice Lanes

Overview

Choice Lanes use one or more operational strategies to increase vehicle throughput, travel speeds and travel reliability when compared to general use lanes operating in the same corridors during periods of high demand. Choice Lanes are implemented through Public-Private Partnerships (P3) that allow private investment in new roadway infrastructure. Choice Lanes allows motorists to have an option on congested urban highways to provide reliable trip times. These new lanes typically use pricing, vehicles eligibility, and/or access control to achieve better operational performance than general purpose lanes.

Examples of Choice Lanes



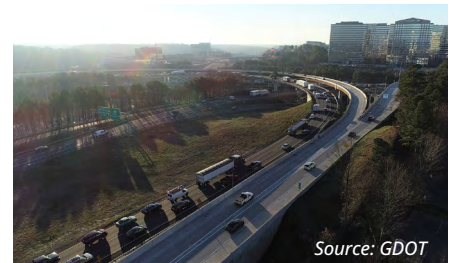
Source: FHWA

High-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes



Source: FHWA

High-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes



Source: GDOT

Reversible lanes

Use of Pricing in Choice Lanes

Of all the operational strategies deployed on Choice Lanes, pricing the lanes provides the best safeguard against increasing congestion in the managed lanes. As congestion continues to escalate, pricing the managed lanes is the only operational strategy that can protect long-term mobility. While other Choice lane strategies can improve efficiency, only pricing can be adjusted to keep pace with changing traffic volumes and guarantee travel reliability. Pricing the lanes also has the benefit of generating an income stream to help pay for the ongoing operations and maintenance of the lanes. There are currently over 60 priced managed facilities implemented in more than a dozen urban areas across the U.S.



National Choice Lanes (stars indicate cities with facilities)

Benefits of Pricing in Choice Lanes

- TDOT can control pricing policy and who has to pay to use the lanes
- Only users of the lanes have to pay to benefit from them
- Price can be increased and decreased as congestion requires to maintain reliability
- Revenue will be generated by the lanes to help offset their costs

