

HIGHWAY DESIGN & OPERATIONS

optimizing your systems

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Knowing “we can’t build our way out of congestion,” what can be done to optimize transportation systems?

Multi-modal approaches: The new 2010 Highway Capacity Manual will become the leading technical document for multi-modal transportation systems, bringing emphasis to other modes as solutions to congestion. Presenting an integrated multi-modal approach for the first time, the manual focuses on travelers’ perceptions. Four different levels of service – bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and auto/truck – will be featured.

Truck lanes: Recognizing freight transportation will grow 260 percent by 2035, Georgia did a study evaluating whether truck-only lanes would produce more efficient traffic movement. Results recommended not pursuing this option. Truck-only lanes would pull 60 percent of trucks from general use lanes, but traffic using parallel facilities then would fill general use lanes yielding only a five percent decrease in traffic.



The 95 Express: Low trip reliability coupled with the worst congestion in the nation put south Florida in need of an innovative solution to traffic management. Over 21 miles crossing two counties, the 95 Express evolved from an urban partnership agreement and makes a significant regional connection. General purpose lanes and express lanes along with bus rapid transit combine to provide congestion relief. Marketing/advertising and public outreach through media, dynamic message signs, highway advisory radio, and billboards are essential to successful operation.

TIME and HEROs: Traffic Incident Management Enhancement (TIME) in Atlanta emphasizes coordination, communication, and cooperation among all first responders to highway crashes. Quick clearance is the goal to avoiding secondary crashes and resuming normal traffic flow. Highway Emergency Response Operations (HERO) shares best practices with Florida’s Road Rangers program. HEROs assist stranded motorists and keep metro Atlanta traffic moving. About 80 percent of the time, HEROs are first ones on the scene after an incident.

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