

Presentation by Darryl D. VanMeter, P.E.,  
Assistant State Urban Design Engineer  
October 28, 2005  
Technical Presentation for ASHE

## Future of HOV in Atlanta

What is the future of HOV in Atlanta?

1) The Department is committed to implementing a solid HOV system in Atlanta.

**HOV CWP has over 12 construction projects identified, totaling over \$920 M, just in Construction cost.**

**The LRP has 23 HOV construction projects, totaling over \$3.3 B in Construction cost.**

**PE funds are authorized on 17 projects, currently.**

2) The Department views the expansion of the HOV system as a critical component of the region's strategic needs to preserve mobility and enhance congestion mitigation efforts. In 2003, the Department completed the HOV Strategic Implementation Plan (Parsons Transportation Group). The goal of the HOV Strategic Implementation Plan for the Atlanta Region is to **strategically** move HOV projects forward to construction. This study was the basis for the projects that are currently in the program, with exception of the I-75 HOV project in Cobb County which was under development at the time of the study inception. Part of that study resulted in the drafting of HOV Policy Guidelines, which identified goals and objectives, and measures of effectiveness, in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the system. The Office of Planning is in the process of implementing some of the data collection that will do this. I encourage you to visit our website and explore the HOV section, which has this strategic study available for your review.

3) Some facts supporting the use of HOV lanes: Based on the ARC Transportation Planning Fact Book, **driving alone has dropped** nearly 1 percent in Atlanta between 1990 and 2000, whereas there was a national increase of 2.5 percent. This drop is second only to Seattle. **Carpooling** has increased by 0.7% to 13.6 % in 2000, which is the

third largest increase among all metropolitan areas. Recent high gas prices have probably pushed this higher.

- 4) In Georgia, the preferred typical section for HOV systems is Barrier separated. This promotes safety and reliability of time savings. HOV access points are selected preferably based on trip end information and not at current general use interchanges.
- 5) There is a national trend toward HOV lanes being a subset of what is called “managed lanes”. I encourage you to read a report by TRB entitled “[Managed Lanes: Strategies Related to HOV/HOT](#)” You can find this on the web if you Google search the words in the title.
- 6) "A managed lane facility is one that increases freeway efficiency by packaging various operational and design actions. Lane management operations may be adjusted at any time to better match regional goals." TX DOT definition.
- 7) Based on the national trends, it is fair to say that HOT High Occupancy Toll has a good possibility of implementation in Atlanta. This concept is being explored on I-75 in Cobb County.
- 8) HOV lanes will likely be the primary guideway for improved Bus Rapid Transit systems, due to the virtually exclusive busway that is provided at relatively small capital cost, compared true exclusive busway.
- 9) The concept of Truck Only Lanes (TOL) is a close cousin to HOV lanes, and is currently being planned and implemented, to improve mobility, and provide congestion relief. Transportation Board approved, we have a lot of studies to complete before we have all the answers on this new type of managed lane, but we believe this has a strong potential for some of the major interstate corridors in Atlanta, primarily on I-285. We are currently looking at this concept in design on the I-75 corridor in Cobb County, preparing a Statewide Truck only Lane Planning Study contract, and working with the ARC on similar initiatives and policies.
- 10) As with most aspects of successful highway system program delivery, the real future of HOV in Atlanta is dynamic and is not just in the hands of the design engineers, or the planners, or the construction engineers, or the financial experts; the future of HOV in

Atlanta is in the hands of the team of Transportation leaders like those in this organization, and I challenge you all to be innovative, work together, work smart, push the limits, and stay on the cutting edge to make the future of our transportation system in Atlanta the right one.

Thank you and please feel free to contact me by email at [darryl.vanmeter@dot.state.ga.us](mailto:darryl.vanmeter@dot.state.ga.us) or by phone at 404-656-5436.