



EXPRESS LANES: FACT SHEET

WHAT ARE EXPRESS LANES?

- Express Lanes are travel lanes that provide different travel options, increase roadway capacity and help manage congestion on Colorado highways. Motorists can travel in the express lanes if they choose to ride the bus, carpool or pay a toll for a reliable travel time. Drivers always have the option to use the adjacent free general-purpose lanes.

WHY EXPRESS LANES?

- The total number of vehicle miles traveled in the U.S. has increased more than 70 percent in the past 20 years. At the same time, highway capacity has only grown by 0.3 percent.
- In 2016, Colorado's annual growth rate was 1.9 percent, second highest in the nation, at about 100,000 new residents per year. We know from projects like TRENCH that we cannot build our way out of congestion.
- CDOT spends more than 60% of its annual revenue on maintenance needs statewide, leaving little flexibility in the budget to address additional capacity. Express lanes have the potential to address both ongoing capacity and maintenance needs on specific corridors statewide.

ABOUT EXPRESS LANES:

- Colorado's first Express Lanes, the I-25 Central Lanes, opened in 2006. Since then, HPTE has opened three additional Express Lane facilities (U.S. 36, I-25 from U.S. 36 to 120th and the I-70 Mountain Express Lane.)

BENEFITS of EXPRESS LANES:

- **Trip reliability:** A common misperception is that the only reason CDOT would ever toll a highway is for revenue to help pay for the construction of a project. In fact, a key reason for tolling a lane next to free general purpose lanes is to manage traffic volumes and speeds to provide a reliable travel time in the Express Lane.
- **Capacity:** Adding Express Lanes do not take away existing free capacity lanes, they add capacity overall through the new lane. Corridors with Express Lanes see improved travel time across all lanes.
- **Choice:** Express Lanes are a choice. A driver can choose to pay a toll for a reliable trip or use the free general purpose lane. Some CDOT Express Lanes offer transit and free carpooling or motorcycle use.

PROVEN SUCCESS:

- The US 36 project is already delivering significant benefits to this congested highway. Since the project began, RTD bus ridership on U.S. 36, which was already among the highest in RTD's system, has increased 45 percent. Since project completion in 2015, U.S. 36 commuters in all lanes are now experiencing savings in travel times and improved travel speeds - during peak hours speeds have increased between 20 and 29 percent.

Testimonials: Read more at www.codot.gov/programs/expresslanes



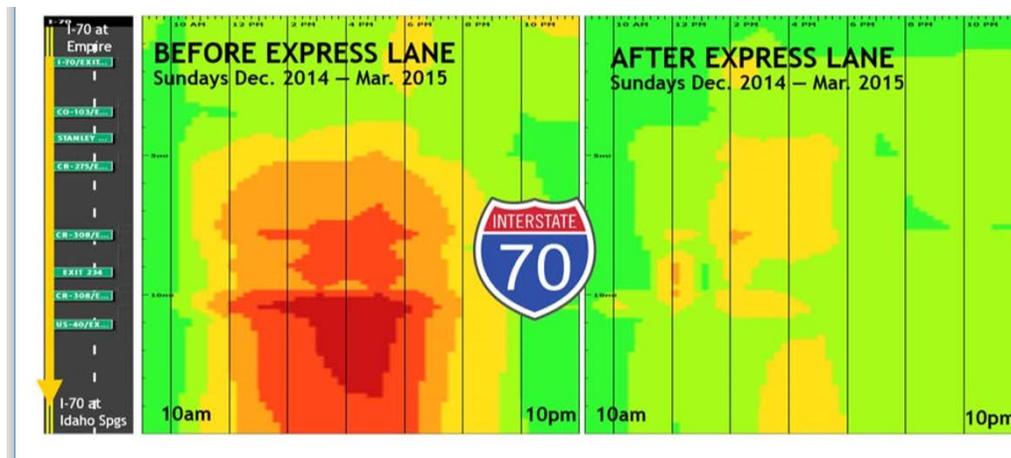
"Now that I can use the whole stretch of the Express Lanes, I save over 40 minutes per day! I love the Express Lanes!" —Meg Collins

"Although I was initially skeptical about the benefits of the US 36 Express Lanes project, I have been amazed at how this project has transformed our region." —Frank Bruno



- The I-70 Mountain Express Lane opened in December 2015. The opening winter season and 2016 summer season showed successes across all travel lanes in reducing congestion, improving travel times and safety, even while experiencing record-breaking volumes at the Eisenhower-Johnson Tunnels. For example, the Martin Luther King Holiday, typically the heaviest winter weekend, showed 26 percent to 52 percent travel time improvements in 2016 compared to the 2012 holiday.

I-70 Mountain Corridor, Eastbound Travel Speeds Before and After Construction of the Express Lane



- The Mountain Express Lane's operational success enables increased vehicle throughput at traffic volumes that would have created stop-and-go conditions in previous years. Based on the demonstrated success of its three existing Express Lane facilities, HPTE will be expanding its network by opening more facilities in the next two to five years including I-25 North of 120th Avenue, C-470 and Central 70 through Denver.