

MANAGED LANES SUBJECT BRIEF

What are Managed Lanes?

Managed lanes are facilities or sets of lanes within a facility where operational strategies are proactively implemented and managed in response to changing conditions with a combination of tools. The active management of these lanes is used to optimize traffic flow and vehicle throughput while meeting local and regional mobility objectives. This Transportation System Management and Operations (TSM&O) strategy is being applied in high traffic areas around Florida where transportation demand is increasing and opportunities for future widenings are limited.

Managed lanes are innovative strategies used to:

-  Provide Travel Choices
-  Offer Predictable Travel Times
-  Manage Traffic Congestion
-  Reduce Fuel Consumption
-  Decrease Air Pollution
-  Support Transit Usage

These functions of managed lanes support the seven goals for Florida’s transportation future. These goals are identified in the [Florida Transportation Plan \(FTP\)](#), the state’s long-range plan.

Why are Managed Lanes Important?

As the quantity of Florida’s population and visitors continues to grow, congestion of the state transportation system grows with it. Managed lanes work to better manage the flow of traffic on existing facilities by regulating demand, separating traffic streams, and utilizing available capacity.

This strategy allows demand to be managed through monitoring and adjustments of operations and design. The system can have flexibility based on regional goals and current road conditions. Increases in roadway efficiency benefit both the managed and general-purpose lanes.

What is FDOT’s Role?

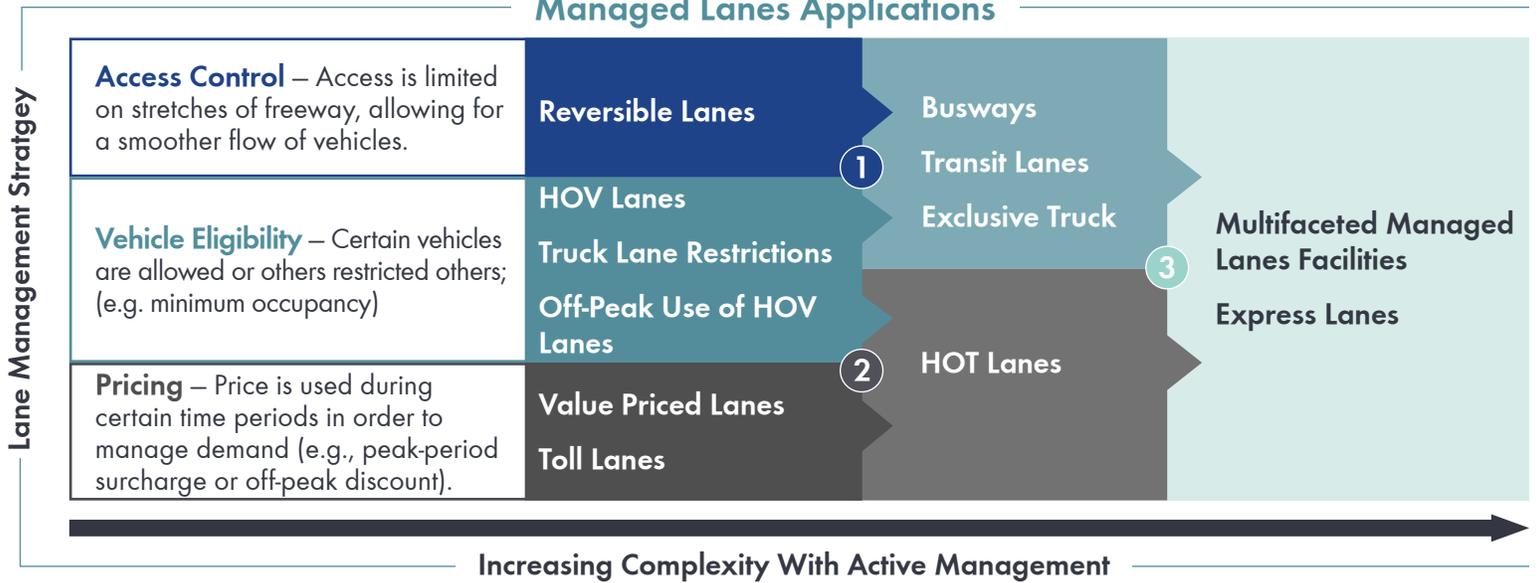
FDOT Central Office Traffic Engineering and Operations, in coordination with the districts, Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise, expressway authorities, Systems Implementation, Transit, and Design offices, support the Managed Lanes Program in Florida.

In 2020, FDOT issued a [Managed Lanes Policy](#). The intent of this policy is to maximize total volume of traffic on important facilities by using vehicle eligibility standards, access control, pricing, incentives, and other available techniques. In alignment with this Policy, the FDOT districts are responsible for identifying the specific roadway segments appropriate for managed lanes and the proposed congestion management strategies based on the needs of individual communities and facilities, in coordination with local governments.

The Statewide Toll and Express Lane Team meets quarterly to discuss challenges, opportunities and best practices for districts and the Florida’s Turnpike Enterprise (FTE) to work together in delivering managed lanes projects throughout the state.



Managed Lanes Applications



As you move to the right on the diagram, the options blend more than one of these strategies:

- 1 **Combined Access Control and Vehicle Eligibility** – Examples include exclusive busways, transitways, or truck facilities serving a specific type of vehicle, with barrier separation and limited access points.
- 2 **Combined Vehicle Eligibility and Pricing** – Examples include high-occupancy toll (HOT) lanes where higher occupancy vehicles such as buses, vanpools, and carpools are given free or discounted passage and others are tolled.
- 3 **Multifaceted Managed Lane Facilities and Express Lanes** – Integrates all strategies for an actively managed facility that incorporates a high degree of operational flexibility.

Did You Know?

- Managed lanes can maximize the use of existing infrastructure to support increasing, consistent demand while being cost effective and environmentally friendly.
- Managed lanes do not always have tolls. However, congestion pricing may be used as a tool that allows users the choice to pay a toll to move through congestion and increase trip time reliability. Tolls on FDOT facilities will never be set by a private entity and are not used to produce revenue, only to manage congestion. A corridor's congestion pricing strategy can evolve to meet the needs of the facility and community.

Where Can I Learn More?

[2015 Express Lanes Handbook](#)

Provides information on all aspects of express lane facility planning and implementation in Florida.

[Congestion Pricing](#)

Congestion pricing case studies around the United States are highlighted.

[FDOT Managed Lanes Policy](#)

Identifies the goals and priorities of managed lanes in Florida. Shares the connection of managed lanes to the FDOT Vision and Secretary Thibault's Vital Few.

[Managed Lanes: A Primer](#)

The Federal Highway Administration provides information on managed lanes as a mobility strategy.

[Managed Lanes](#)

Outlines the FDOT Traffic Engineering and Operations Office's objective and next steps for managed lanes in Florida.



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LINKS

[Partnering with FDOT: A Resource Guide for Local Governments](#)