



WHAT IS MANAGED LANES PLANNING?

What are managed lanes?

Consider your daily commute. Do you build in extra time for traffic to ensure you arrive on time? Would your travel patterns change if you knew exactly how long your drive would take each day?

“Managed lanes” are a transportation tool that can provide you with a reliable travel time option. Managed lanes use vehicle eligibility, access, pricing or a combination of these things to actively manage the volume of traffic in a lane. This guarantees mobility and ensures that free traffic flow is maintained.

Currently, metro Atlanta has a system of High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes—a type of managed lane employing eligibility requirements (vehicles with two or more occupants or motorcycles) and restricted access points. In other parts of the U.S., other types of managed lanes, such as High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes, incorporate both vehicle eligibility and pricing. With a HOT lane, a vehicle that doesn’t meet eligibility requirements may pay a fee to drive in the managed lane. Pricing is used to manage the amount of congestion in the lane. As traffic increases, so does the associated toll, thus discouraging additional vehicles from entering the lane and allowing an acceptable flow of traffic to be maintained.

Why are managed lanes important?

The Atlanta region is unlikely to have funding to rebuild its interstate system. One possible alternative is to implement a network of HOT lanes. The region is already building its first HOT lane on I-85 north in DeKalb and Gwinnett counties. It is a test case for what could be widespread use of these lanes over the next decade.

In addition to providing a more reliable commute for highway drivers, managed lanes offer a variety of benefits consistent with the region’s goals. A managed lane system can help address the ongoing transportation needs of the region by:

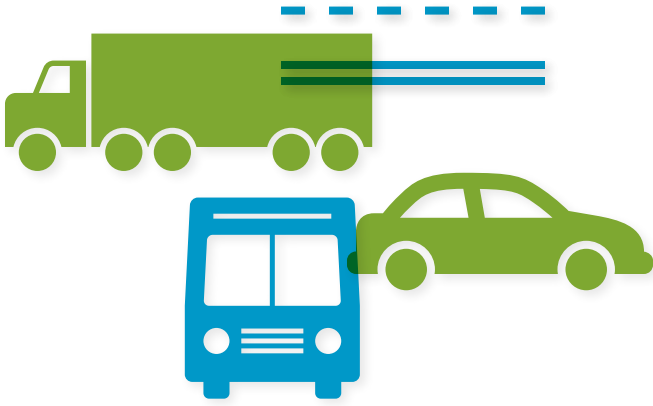
- Promoting transportation choice through increased use of transit, vanpools and carpools—all of which can be accommodated at no cost in managed lanes.
- Improving transportation system performance—in managed lanes and regular lanes—through enhanced safety and managed demand.
- Generating revenue for operations and maintenance, construction or other improvements.

WHAT IS PLAN 2040?

PLAN 2040 is metro Atlanta’s long-range planning process for land development and transportation needs through the year 2040. It will guide growth by addressing not only land use and transportation issues, but economic, environmental, housing and human services challenges, as well.



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION



Overcoming the challenges to plan implementation

Managed lanes concepts have been examined extensively for implementation in the Atlanta region. Planning activities include:

- Regular meetings of a Managed Lanes Planning Team during the development of the **Envision6** Regional Transportation Plan
- ARC Board's Adoption of a Managed Lanes Policy in 2007
- Participation in the development of the Metro Atlanta Managed Lanes System Plan, completed in 2009. Recommendations from this plan will be incorporated in PLAN 2040
- Programming of the I-85 North HOT lanes project in the Transportation Improvement Plan.

Managed lanes projects are operating and planned in states across the country. Examples include:

- **SR 91 Express Lanes — Orange County, California**
- **I-394 HOT Lanes — Minneapolis, Minnesota**
- **I-95 / I-395 — Northern Virginia**

How can someone participate in developing Plan 2040?

Metro Atlanta residents can participate in ARC's Plan 2040 activities in several ways:

- Regularly visit the Plan 2040 Web site at www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040 for the latest information about the planning process. Check the "Get Involved" section of the site for discussions, meetings and other ways to share thoughts and ideas.
- Email comments to ARC at plan2040@atlantaregional.com
- Share ideas at ARC's group page on LENS on Atlanta at www.lensonatlanta.org
- Call ARC with comments or questions:
 - 404. 463. 3272
 - TTY number is 404. 463. 3272

Helpful links for more info

- www.dot.ga.gov/managedlanes
- **Georgia State Road and Tollway Authority I-75 South Value Pricing Study**

To learn more about the concept of managed lanes:

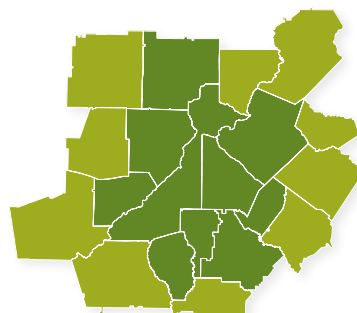
- **Texas Transportation Institute Managed Lanes Website**
- **FHWA Managed Lanes Primer**
- **FHWA Managed Lanes and HOV Facilities**

This document can be found on ARC's Web site at www.atlantaregional.com/plan2040. For assistance in viewing this document, contact plan2040@atlantaregional.com or 404.463.3272.



ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION

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WHAT IS THE ATLANTA REGIONAL COMMISSION?

ARC is the regional planning and intergovernmental coordination agency for the **10-county** metropolitan area. For transportation planning, ARC's area of responsibility includes all or parts of **20 counties** and the City of Atlanta.