



WHAT'S UP WITH THE MOPAC EXPRESS LANES?



MoPac is one of the most notoriously congested corridors in our region

MoPac is one of Austin's most important arteries, serving as a key route to downtown and points beyond. As a primary alternative to Interstate 35, MoPac carries more than 180,000 cars and trucks each day. By 2035, MoPac is projected to serve approximately 220,000 cars per day.



If we did nothing, traffic would continue to grow with no viable congestion relief solution in sight

Central Texas continues to see extraordinary levels of population growth. Austin was ranked America's fastest-growing city in 2016 by Forbes. The Austin metro area's population reached 2 billion in 2016 and is on track to reach 3 million by 2030.



Express lanes bring the congestion relief we really need in this corridor

On a central, urban corridor like MoPac with limited right of way, building an additional general purpose lane would not alleviate congestion because that lane would soon reach capacity, perpetuating the congestion problem. Express Lanes are an innovative congestion management tool that allow drivers to bypass congestion when they need a reliable alternative. They allow drivers to take back the time they would have wasted sitting in traffic, while also offering Capital Metro buses and registered van pools toll-free access to their destination.



Variable priced tolling ensures free-flow movement

Instead of fixed tolls, the MoPac Express Lane charges a variable priced toll that increases when traffic is heavy, and decreases when it is light to either encourage or discourage use. It leverages supply and demand principles to manage the number of vehicles entering the Lane. Toll rates fluctuate with traffic volumes to maximize the number of cars that can use the Lane while ensuring traffic remains free-flowing.



Express lanes encourage carpooling

The MoPac Express Lane will encourage carpooling because occupants have the option to split the cost of the trip among each occupant in the vehicle.



Express lanes encourage transit

Public transit buses, registered van pools and emergency vehicles have non-tolled access to the Express Lane, making transit a more attractive option.



Express lanes have been implemented around the United States—and they work

While the MoPac Express Lane is the first-of-its kind congestion management tool in Austin, express lanes have been successful in other areas of Texas and around the U.S. Visit mopacexpress.com/express-lanes/case-studies.php for more information.