

# HIGH-OCCUPANCY VEHICLE LANES

## FACT SHEET



### What are high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes?

A high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane, sometimes called a carpool lane, is a special lane reserved for the use of carpools, vanpools, emergency services and transit vehicles. These lanes are typically located next to the general-purpose lanes and enable those who carpool or ride the bus to bypass traffic in the adjacent lanes. Lanes are identified as "2-plus" which refers to the minimum number of occupants to qualify.

A vehicle occupied by two or more people may use HOV lanes. Vehicles eligible to use HOV lanes include, but are not limited to:

- Passenger cars
- Pickup trucks
- Vans
- Buses
- Motorcycles
- Emergency vehicles responding to a call

Prohibited vehicles include, but are not limited to:

- Trucks with more than two axles
- Trucks having a gross weight capacity of five tons or more
- Vehicles towing trailers



HOV lanes in Dallas, TX

### Benefits of HOV lanes

HOV lanes save time for car-poolers and transit riders by enabling them to bypass traffic. Because most drivers, especially during rush hour, are driving alone, HOV lanes are less congested, giving car-poolers and transit vehicles less congested ride. This can incentivize drivers who typically travel alone to carpool or choose transit, meaning we move more people in fewer vehicles, which benefits everyone.

### Lane design

For the most part, HOV lanes look like any other highway lane, except that they have special diamond markings on signage and pavement and can be separated from general purpose lanes by barriers, medians, rumble strips, buffer areas, or pylons similar to those on MoPac.

### Implementation and enforcement

HOV lanes are monitored to ensure users are qualified to use the lanes.

### Contact information

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