

TRUCK LANE RESTRICTIONS

Description

Truck lane restrictions in Texas allow for trucks to be restricted to two or more designated lanes of a highway. This ensures that at least one of the highway lanes (normally the left or inside lane) is used only by passenger vehicles. A restricted vehicle, however, is allowed to use any lane, including the restricted lane, to pass another vehicle and to enter and exit the highway. Lane restrictions can be designated on a 24-hour or peak-period only basis. The most common reasons for implementing truck lane restrictions include improving highway operations, reducing crashes, pavement and structural considerations, and construction work zone restrictions.



Target Market

- Freeways with high truck volumes
- Freeways with a high percentage of trucks using the left lane

Truck lane restrictions should only be considered where there is a minimum of four percent trucks in the traffic stream over a 24-hour period and when approximately 10 percent of the total truck traffic is using the lane to be restricted. The roadway section to be restricted should be at least six miles long.

How Will This Help?

- Improve safety by reducing freeway crashes.
- Improve traffic flow by providing a lane free of truck-passenger car interaction.

Success Stories

- Truck lane restrictions have been implemented along urban freeways in the Houston, San Antonio, Austin, and the Dallas-Ft. Worth metro areas.
- Truck lane restrictions have operated successfully outside the urban area along IH 35 between Austin and San Antonio.

Cost:	●○○○○
Time:	Short
Impact:	Corridor
Who:	City/State
Hurdles:	None

Implementation Issues

Routine enforcement of either regular traffic patrols and/or specialized dedicated truck enforcement units should be available to assure compliance. A good public information campaign should be undertaken to inform the public of the implementation of the restriction. This campaign must include the trucking community along the corridor to assure success of the project.