

# SR 167 HOT Lanes Pilot Project

## What do SR 167 users have to say about HOT lanes?

WSDOT has been out in the community talking to SR 167 commuters about HOT lanes.

We heard that the most important aspects of the HOT lanes are:

- ◆ Time savings
- ◆ Trip reliability
- ◆ Easier, less stressful driving

Most people said they would consider using the HOT lane if it would get them where they need to be on time.

A number of people had concerns about enforcement.

***"I will use the HOT lane if I am running late; getting to a job site on time is worth more than the cost of a toll."***  
-SR 167 Commuter

### ADA Information:

Individuals requiring reasonable accommodation of any type may contact Mike Sallis at [sallism@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:sallism@wsdot.wa.gov) or (206) 464-1230. Persons who are deaf or hard of hearing may call WA State Telecommunications Relay Service (TTY) at 711.

### Title VI:

WSDOT assures full compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin and sex in the provision of benefits and services. For language interpretation services, please contact Mike Sallis at (206) 464-1230. For information on WSDOT's Title VI Program, please contact the Title VI Coordinator at (360) 705-7098.

## Project costs and funding:

The estimated cost is currently \$18 million. The estimated cost includes:

- ◆ Construction
- ◆ Electronic tolling equipment
- ◆ Pavement markings and signage
- ◆ Maintaining traffic flow during construction

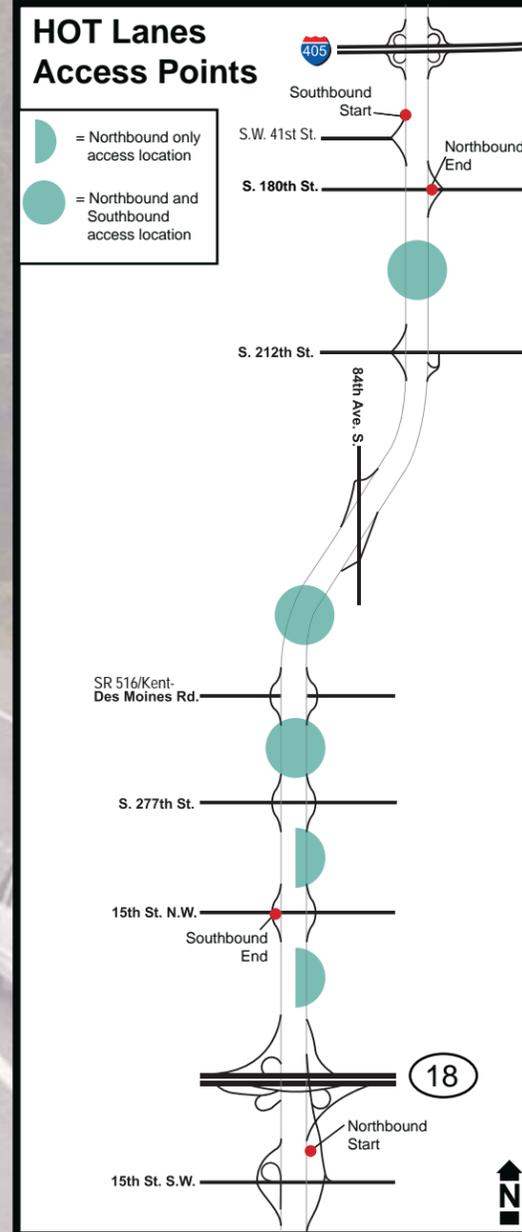
The HOT Lanes Pilot Project has received \$16.25 million in state and federal funding.

## For more information:

Visit the project Web site:  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR167/HOTLanes](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR167/HOTLanes)

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## SR 167



## Giving drivers a new way to get where they need to go...

### Why is WSDOT considering High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lanes?

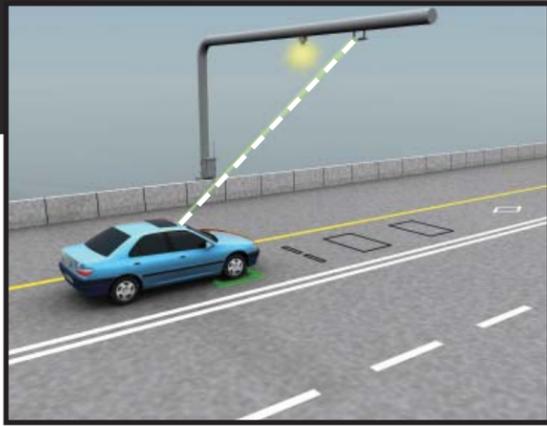
- ◆ Improve traffic flow.
- ◆ Assure that transit maintains express speeds and travel-time reliability.
- ◆ Move additional vehicles through the corridor by more efficiently using capacity in the HOV lanes.
- ◆ Give all drivers more choices and the benefit of a dependable trip.

### What are HOT lanes?

- ◆ HOT lanes are HOV lanes that are also open to other drivers who pay a toll.
- ◆ Tolls adjust automatically with flexible pricing to keep traffic flowing at 45 mph or faster even when regular lanes may be congested.

### HOT lanes are coming to SR 167.

- ◆ HOT lanes are scheduled to open in 2008.
- ◆ The SR 167 HOT lanes project will convert nine miles of the existing carpool lanes between Renton and Auburn to HOT lanes.
- ◆ Lanes will be re-stripped to create a buffer and access points between the HOT lanes and the adjacent general-purpose lane. This improves safety and driver comfort.
- ◆ Crossing the double white line buffer between access points is illegal.
- ◆ Law enforcement and incident response teams will ensure proper use of the HOT lanes.
- ◆ Solo drivers will be allowed to access the HOT lanes by paying a toll, as long as speeds are 45 mph or higher.
- ◆ Carpools and vanpools use the HOT lane toll-free.
- ◆ WSDOT will evaluate the HOT lanes and regularly report on the results.



Electronic readers and transponders mean no toll booths.

**SR 167 has space in its carpool lanes... WSDOT is giving you a new reliable way to get where you need to go.**

An analysis of the SR 167 carpool lanes found that there is room to help alleviate some of the traffic in the regular lanes while maintaining trip reliability for transit, carpoolers and vanpoolers.



Existing SR 167 facility with HOV lanes



Proposed SR 167 with HOV lanes converted to HOT lanes



A toll transponder will be placed on a solo driver's front windshield.

**Automated toll collection maintains speeds.**

- ◆ No tollbooths required! The electronic toll collection system will include a vehicle-mounted transponder, over-roadway transponder readers and electronic toll rate signs.

**Enforcement assures fairness.**

- ◆ A flashing enforcement light at access points will signify when a vehicle drives through with an active transponder. If the light does not flash, Washington State Patrol will check to see if there are two or more people in the vehicle.
- ◆ Additional enforcement along the HOT lanes will maintain a fair system for drivers.

**Tolls are set to keep traffic moving.**

- ◆ Tolls for solo drivers are based on congestion. When the lanes open in 2008, the average price may be between \$1.50 and \$2.00 per trip during peak hours or higher during times of heavy congestion.
- ◆ As more people enter the HOT lane, the toll goes up. A higher toll will result in fewer solo drivers entering the HOT lane to keep traffic moving quickly.
- ◆ WSDOT will monitor speeds to make sure traffic continues to move at least 45 mph in the HOT lane.

**HOT lanes save time for all commuters on SR 167.**

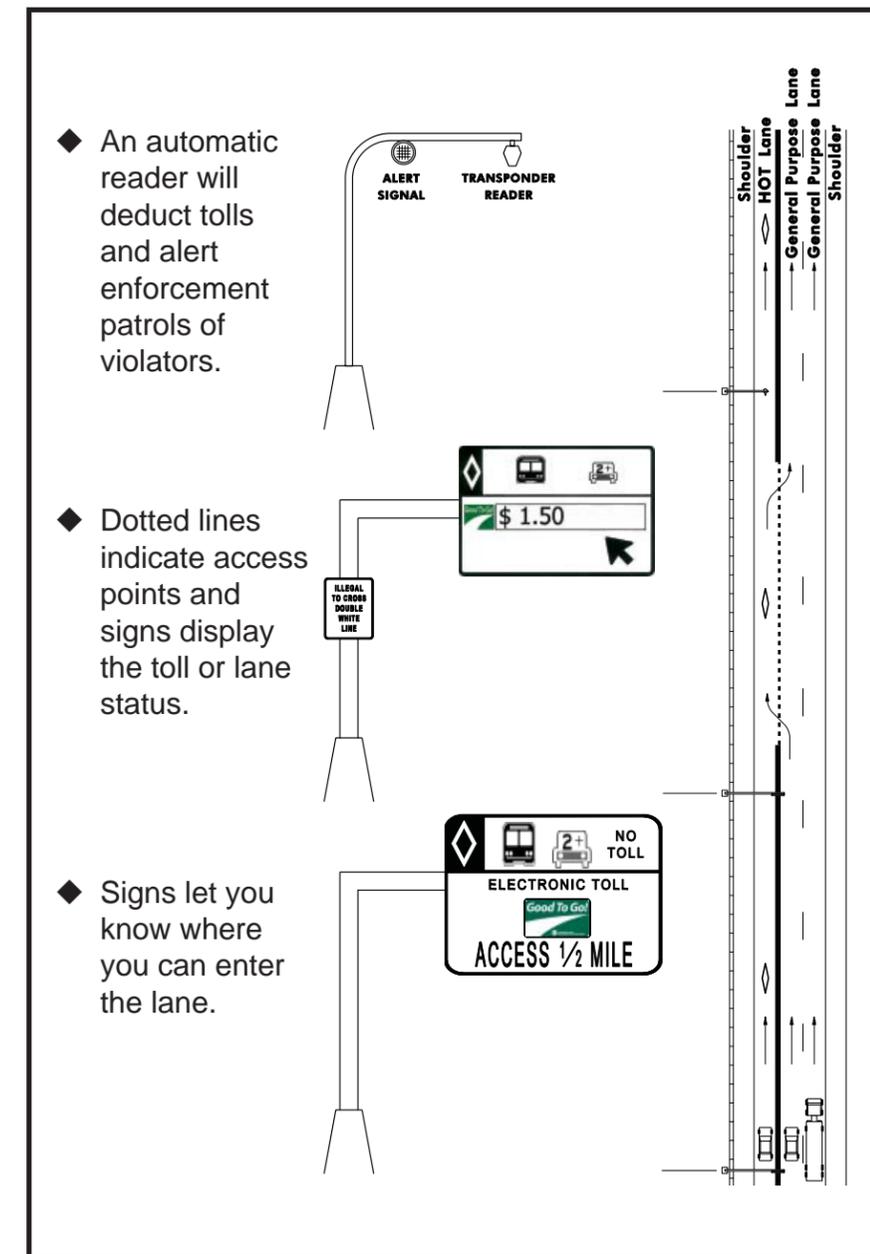
Converting the carpool lanes to HOT lanes is expected to make better use of the road. More vehicles will be able to travel during the peak periods. Express speeds and trip reliability will be maintained for transit, carpools and vanpools in the HOT lanes.

- ◆ Opening year projections for morning commute, northbound:
  - Total number of vehicles traveling through the corridor could increase up to 5-10%
  - Total number of vehicles traveling in the current carpool lane could increase up to 20%
- ◆ Opening year projections for evening commute, southbound:
  - Total number of vehicles traveling through the corridor could increase up to 5-10%
  - Total number of vehicles traveling in the current carpool lane will increase substantially

Even with more vehicles on the highway, overall speeds in the regular lanes should stay the same because the traffic is spread out. Tolls help maintain express speeds in the current carpool lanes.

**Carpools will continue to use the HOT lane without paying a toll**

**How HOT Lanes Work**



- ◆ An automatic reader will deduct tolls and alert enforcement patrols of violators.
- ◆ Dotted lines indicate access points and signs display the toll or lane status.
- ◆ Signs let you know where you can enter the lane.

**For more information visit:**  
[www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR167/HotLanes](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/SR167/HotLanes)