

## HOT Lanes Gain Speed

By Robert W. Poole, Jr.



As of the start of 2005, four high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes were in operation in the United States: the 91 Express Lanes in Orange County, California, the SR 125 HOT lanes in San Diego, the reversible HOT lane on the Katy Freeway (I-10) in Houston, and a similar HOT lane on US 290 in Houston. By the end of 2005, there will be two more in operation, in Denver and Minneapolis, both conversions of underutilized HOV lanes.

Two more HOT lane projects have received permission to be implemented, both via legislation. In 2004 the California legislature approved a bill to let Alameda County implement a long-planned HOT lane on I-680's Sunol Grade, a major commuter route between Silicon Valley and the East Bay. (The same bill also permits Santa Clara to consider HOT lanes and San Diego County to expand its I-15 HOT lanes.) And in early 2005, the Washington legislature approved WSDOT's plan to convert the underutilized HOV lanes on SR 167 (between Renton and Auburn, paralleling congested I-5) to HOT lanes. This will be the pilot project for a potential network of HOT lanes in the Puget Sound region.

Two large new HOT lanes projects are currently under construction. In Houston, the Katy Freeway (I-10) is being rebuilt in a \$1.2 billion project. As part of this, the existing single reversible HOT lane is being replaced by four HOT lanes, two in each direction, with variable pricing. The HOT lanes will be operated by the Harris County Toll Road Authority, which is providing \$250 million for their construction. And San Diego is under way on the first phase of expanding the existing I-15 managed lanes project from the current two lanes (reversible) extending eight miles to four lanes (two each direction, with a movable barrier) extending 20 miles.

For more on trends with HOT lanes, visit: [reason.org/apr2005/surface\\_transportation.shtml#feature4](http://reason.org/apr2005/surface_transportation.shtml#feature4) ■

HOT Lanes Recap, 2005						
Jurisdiction	In Operation	Under Construction	Approved	Proposed	Feasibility Study	In Long Range Plan
<b>Arizona</b>						
Phoenix					Network of HOT lanes	
<b>California</b>						
Alameda Co.			I-680			
Los Angeles Co.					I-710, SR 60, I-15	I-710, SR 60
Marin Co.					US 101	
Orange Co.	SR-91				SR-57	
San Diego Co.	I-15	I-15 expansion				I-5, I-805, SR-52
Santa Clara Co.					US 101, SR 87, SR 85	
Sonoma Co.					US 101	
Bay Area region						Network of HOT lanes
<b>Colorado</b>						
Denver		I-25N		I-70,C-470	Network of HOT lanes	
<b>Florida</b>						
Miami				I-95	I-95, SR-821, SR-836	SR-836
Orlando					I-4	
Tampa		SR-618				
<b>Georgia</b>						
Atlanta				GA-316, GA-400, I-75, I-285, I-575	HOT lanes	
<b>Maryland</b>						
Baltimore					I-95, I-695	
DC suburbs					I-495, I-270, US-50, ICC	
<b>Minnesota</b>						
Mpls/St. Paul	I-394				Network of HOT lanes	
<b>North Carolina</b>						
Piedmont Triad					I-40	
Research Triangle					I-40	
<b>Oregon</b>						
Portland					I-205, SR 212/224	
<b>Texas</b>						
Dallas			I-635	I-35W, I-820, I-30, SH 183	Network of HOT lanes	
Houston	I-10, US 290	I-10			Network of HOT lanes	
San Antonio					I-35, I-10, SH 160	
<b>Virginia</b>						
Hampton Roads					VPPP study	
D.C. suburbs				I-495, I-95, I-395	VPPP study	
<b>Washington</b>						
Seattle			Sr 167			