Hard Shoulder Running

Hard shoulder running is a strategy in which motorists are allowed to travel on roadway shoulders during periods of peak travel demand.

HOW WILL THIS HELP?

- Increases capacity on freeways, expressways and arterial roadways to address congestion caused by recurring bottlenecks
- Improves mobility by adding roadway capacity to reduce delays and improve travel time reliability

HOW DOES IT WORK?

- Can be implemented by time of day OR by monitoring congestion and using dynamic message signs to communicate to drivers that the shoulder is open
- Requires transportation operators to monitor traffic and control use of the shoulder
- Uses traffic sensors to collect data, dynamic message signs to display the open and closed status of the shoulder lane, and telecommunications between these field devices and the operations center
- Can use colored pavement to highlight HSR operations

CONSIDERATIONS

- PROVIDE EMERGENCY PULL-OFF AREAS WHERE RIGHT-OF-WAY ALLOWS.
- CONSIDER DRAINAGE STRUCTURES AND STORM WATER/SNOW STORAGE.
- DESIGN EXCEPTIONS FOR GEOMETRIC STANDARDS, INCLUDING LANE WIDTH, VERTICAL AND LATERAL CLEARANCE, AND STOPPING SIGHT DISTANCE, MAY BE REQUIRED.
- CONSIDER SITE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA WHEN DESIGNING FOR SAFE CROSSING OF RAMPS AT INTERCHANGES.
- ACCOUNT FOR SPEED DIFFERENTIALS BETWEEN DYNAMIC SHOULDER LANE AND GENERAL-PURPOSE LANE.
- CONSIDER CCTV COVERAGE TO MAKE SURE LANES ARE CLEAR OF VEHICLES AND DEBRIS.
- IDENTIFY IF SHOULDER IS TRAFFIC BEARING.
- ADDRESS THE NEED FOR SOFTWARE ENHANCEMENTS.
- COORDINATE WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT.