Document Summary

ACTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT: THE NEXT STEP IN CONGESTION MANAGEMENT

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Summary of the Work

The continued growth in travel along congested urban freeway corridors is exceeding the ability of transportation agencies to provide sufficient roadway capacity in major metropolitan areas with limited public funding for roadway expansion and improvement projects. High construction costs, constrained right-of-way, and environmental factors are pushing agencies to explore context-sensitive solutions, such as managed lanes, to mitigate the detrimental effects of congestion while optimizing the use of limited public funding. Active Traffic Management is viewed in the report as a complete package of strategies that make up the broader concept of active traffic management. This approach to congestion management is a more holistic approach that can include the current U.S. application of managed lane strategies to congested freeway corridors. Main observations include an increase in travel demand, a growth in congestion, a commitment to safety, and a shift in agency culture toward active management and system operation that focus on the customer, the willingness to use innovative strategies to address congestion, and the reality of limited resources. In addition, the report assessed European experiences to determine how agencies can integrate managed lane strategies into their congestion management program, network, and corridor planning and how managed lanes fit into the development of highway improvement projects. A major attitude shift in the way European countries approach congestion management is the importance they place on the roadway user as a customer.

The following are the concluding remarks of the project:

1. The road user/customer is a focal point of European mobility policy. Congestion management strategies center on the need to ensure travel time reliability for all trips, regardless of the time of day.
2. Transportation and traffic management operations are priorities in the planning, programming, and funding processes and are seen as critical needs to realize the benefits of investment in the transportation infrastructure and deployed systems for congestion management.
3. Tolling and pricing are being considered as potential long-term solutions to transportation finance shortfalls and congestion management.

Applied to Practice

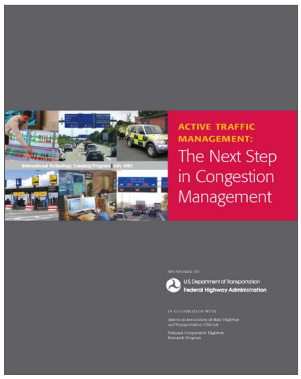
The learning experiences presented at the report as well as the customer service focus on delivering travel-time reliability information can be useful as the concept of reliability becomes mainstreamed into practice.

Related Work

The report presents several resources that are related to travel time reliability and operations as part of the international scan program sponsored by FHWA.

Project Website

http://international.fhwa.dot.gov/pubs/pl07012/



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