

MDOT FLEX ROUTE

HOW DO THEY WORK?

MDOT's flex routes are monitored by the department's transportation operations centers (TOC). The TOCs are a seven-day-a-week operation that houses dispatchers from MDOT and Michigan State Police. The agencies share resources and information by monitoring traffic sensors, distress calls and video feeds from closed-circuit TV cameras. They also coordinate their efforts with law enforcement agencies and other transportation officials.

WHY NOT JUST ADD ANOTHER LANE?

A 24-hour fix simply is not necessary on corridors that typically experience traffic slowdowns only during regular peak travel periods. It is more cost-effective to use the shoulder as a temporary third lane than it would be to build a third lane. Employing flex route technology increases capacity within the existing infrastructure for less money.

MORE INFORMATION

Visit the Michigan Department of Transportation Flex Route website for more information at:
www.Michigan.gov/FlexRoutes
or scan QR code.



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Serving and connecting people, communities, and the economy through transportation.



FLEX ROUTE

THE HOW, WHAT AND WHY



MDOT FLEX ROUTE

WHAT IS IT?

The flex route system is a lane control system that uses overhead signs, cameras and electronic message boards to let drivers know when an additional lane is available for use during morning and afternoon peak travel periods. Flex route technology helps manage congestion and improve safety for highways that frequently experience traffic congestion during peak travel periods.

When traffic is light, the Flex Lane acts as a shoulder, marked by a red "X" on the sign above it, meaning driving in it is illegal. However, during rush hour or unexpected delays, the Flex Lane may open, shown by a green arrow, providing extra capacity without the need for costly permanent expansions.

When the Flex Lane opens and the green arrow appears, the larger message boards over the right shoulder will provide extra guidance based on traffic conditions. For example, if congestion builds, signs may post reduced speed advisories ahead of slowdowns and motorists should adjust their speeds accordingly.

During incidents such as a crash, lane control signs will show which lanes are open, merging or blocked. Motorists should follow the indications as directed and always move over to give first responders space to work safely.

USING THE FLEX ROUTE



GREEN ARROW

Shoulder is open and flex route is available as a third lane.



RED X

Shoulder is closed and flex route is not to be used.



INCIDENTS

Yellow chevron/merge signs tell motorists to move over to avoid incidents.



MOTORIST INFORMATION

Signs provide motorists with information, such as a crash or blocked lanes ahead.



RECOMMENDED SPEEDS

Recommended speeds are posted to decrease potential for crashes.



It's the *Move Over* law

