

Ease

on Down the Road

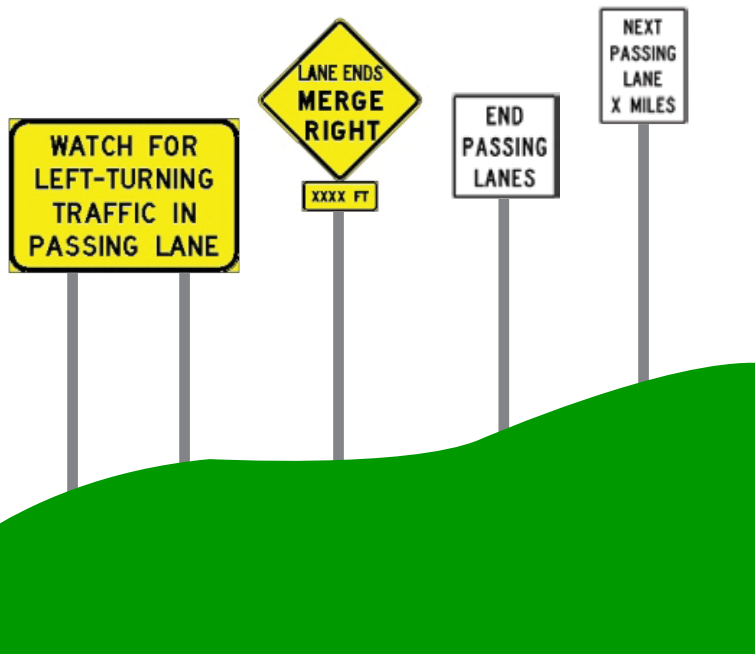
Guiding the Way

Highway markings warn and inform drivers.

- A series of four, six-inch painted stripes in combination with two rumble stripes mark the four-foot separation between opposing traffic directions.
- A six-inch edgeline rumble stripe warns motorists when they are leaving the travel lane on the right.
- Painted arrows inform the driver to change lanes when coming to the end of a passing lane.

New traffic signs:

- Alert drivers of an upcoming passing lane.
- Mark the beginning and length of each passing lane.
- Alert drivers when the passing lane is ending.
- Alert drivers to watch for left-turning traffic in the passing lane, when applicable.



For more information on

Shared Four-Lanes



contact MoDOT at

888-ASK-MODOT
(275-6636)



Missouri Department of Transportation
PO Box 270
Jefferson City, MO 65102



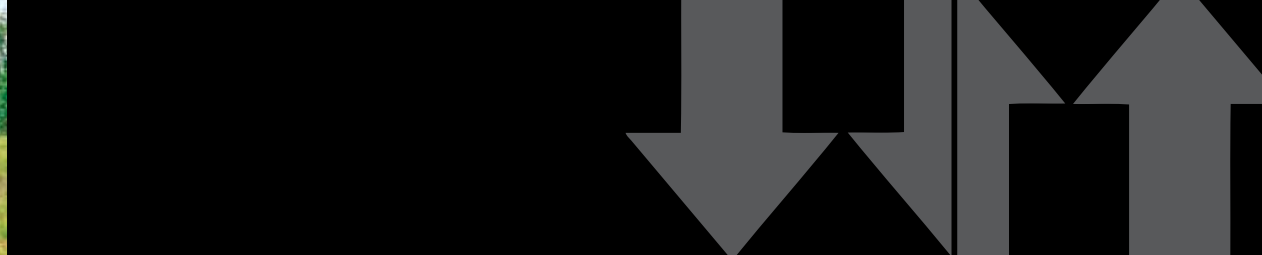
Driving on a

Shared Four-Lane



Missouri Department of Transportation

CR07.055



Moving Across Missouri

More than 60 percent of Missouri's rural roads are two-lane highways. While these routes are adequate to handle the volume of traffic they serve both now and in the future, drivers often become frustrated with delays caused by the inability to pass a slower moving vehicle. In this situation, a driver must either contend with a travel delay or risk a potentially dangerous passing maneuver. Clearly, there is a real need to improve the safety and functionality of many two-lane routes.

Through innovation, MoDOT has designed an alternative roadway, called a "Shared Four-Lane" highway. This unique design provides a cost-effective solution to ease traffic flow, improve safety and reduce driver frustration.

Defining "Shared Four-Lane"

A shared four-lane highway consists of passing lanes along a conventional two-lane highway to better accommodate traffic volumes and improve safety. The passing lane alternates between both sides of the highway to give drivers periodic opportunities to pass.

Although MoDOT has used similar applications in limited fashion before, the first of these projects is scheduled for Route 5 between Camdenton and Lebanon. Its continuous nature will make it one of the first projects of its type in the U.S. These facilities are very common, and have been very successful, in Europe.

Faster

A shared four-lane helps maintain a consistent traffic flow. It increases passing opportunities over long stretches of highway, reducing the time drivers spend behind a slower-moving vehicle.

Safer

The addition of a passing lane improves safety because it eliminates the need for a driver to cross into the opposing lane of traffic to pass another vehicle. Rumble stripes between opposing lanes encourage drivers to remain safely in their lanes. In Europe fatal and severe injury crashes have been reduced by as much as 55 percent.

Cheaper

A shared four-lane provides an effective design alternative for higher-volume, two-lane roads, but at a much lower cost than a typical four-lane highway - as much as 75 percent less. While it can be built on a new alignment, it can also be applied to existing highways, making use of the existing roadbed to minimize the need for new right of way and extensive construction.

Wider

In most locations, MoDOT will design shared four-lane highways with:

- 12-foot lane widths, separated by a four-foot buffer
- Variable shoulder widths
- Left-turn lanes at major intersections
- A flexible design to fit the location

