

Introduction

Traffic congestion is an abnormally high volume of traffic causing travel lanes to slow or stop. Traffic congestion can be caused by:

Poor traffic signal timing; traffic signals or green/red lights where the time allocation for a road does not match the volume on that road—can be a source of congestion on streets.

Bad weather cannot be controlled, but has the potential for increased congestion.

Bottlenecks; points where the roadway narrows or traffic demands cause backups—are a source of congestion.

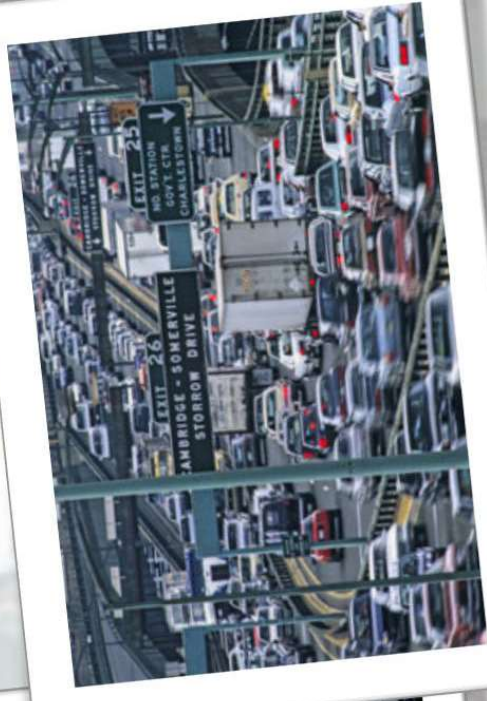
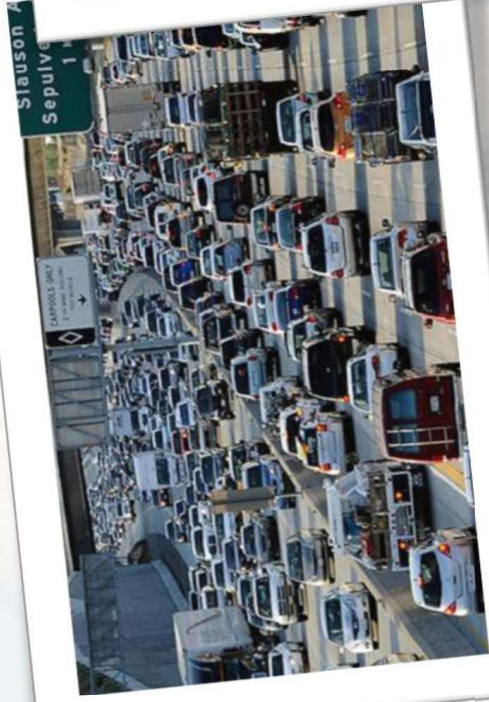
Work zones; for new roads or maintenance cause congestion but these activities can be reduced by a variety of strategies.

Traffic incidents; crashes, stalled vehicles, debris on the road contribute to 25% of all traffic congestion problems.

Special events can cause "spikes" in traffic volumes and changes in traffic patterns. These irregularities can cause delays on different days, times, or locations, or add to regular congestion problems.

Statistics

- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) reports that travel on roads by motor vehicle continues to increase every year.
- In January, February, and March of 2012 approximately 9.7 billion miles were traveled on roads in the US.
- The FHWA reports there were 1.4% more miles traveled in 2012 than in 2011 (that is 135,800,000 more miles traveled).
- With an increase in travel and congestion, aggressive driving, speeding, and driving too fast for conditions are becoming more common and more dangerous.



Statistics

- According to the Texas Transportation Institute, traffic congestion continues to grow in America creating an annual drain on the economy in excess of \$78 billion.
- This waste equals close to 4.2 billion lost work hours and 2.9 billion gallons of wasted fuel.
- 105 million weeks (or 2,019,230 years) of vacation and 58 fully-loaded supertankers.



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What to do? What to do?

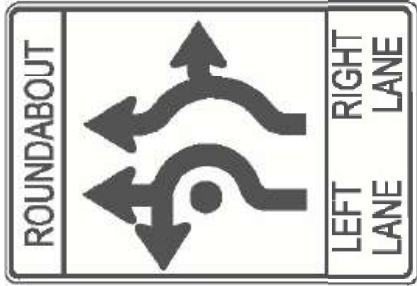
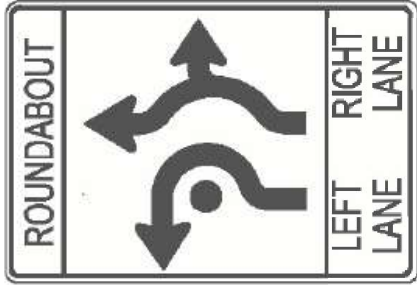
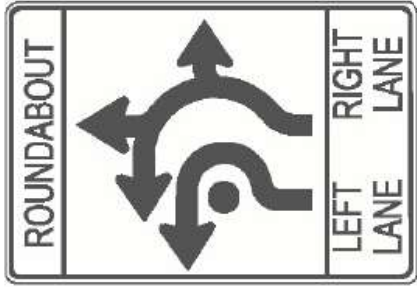
Some municipalities are replacing traffic light controlled intersections with rotaries (traffic circles or roundabouts).

Rotaries allow traffic to keep moving instead of stopping and waiting at traffic lights.

The image displays several traffic signs against a background of a road with a roundabout. The signs include:

- A yellow diamond-shaped sign with a red border and a black arrow pointing straight ahead, indicating a yield sign.
- An orange diamond-shaped sign showing a circular arrow around a central island, indicating a roundabout.
- A white rectangular sign with two arrows: one pointing left labeled "LEFT LANE" and one pointing right labeled "RIGHT LANE".
- A yellow diamond-shaped sign with three curved arrows forming a circle, indicating a roundabout.
- A yellow diamond-shaped sign with the text "TRAFFIC CIRCLE".
- A yellow rectangular sign with the text "ROUNDABOUT AHEAD".
- A yellow diamond-shaped sign with the text "Safety First".





What to do? What Can I Do?

- Prepare for driving duties – get plenty of rest, eat well and exercise appropriately.
- Keeping your body and mind in good condition will help reduce stress, anxiety and help keep your senses alert when stuck in traffic congestion.
- Plan trips to avoid congested routes at peak times.
- Use 5-1-1 services, web sites and other electronic alerts (traffic cams, radio station reports, etc.) to chart the path of least resistance.
- Stay calm – aggressively cutting people off in lane change maneuvers, weaving in traffic, tailgating, etc., can lead to trouble.

What to do? What Can I Do?

- Stay focused – too many rear-ender crashes happen when someone distracted notices the traffic starting to move but rams into the vehicle in front of them.



What to do? What Can I Do?

- Minimize lane changes to avoid blind spot collisions. Pick a lane and try to stick with it unless it becomes closed, then merge with caution.



What to do? What Can I Do?

Do not rubberneck – if you see a crash scene or another emergency on the other side of the road, try to stay focused on your own lane of travel instead of slowing down and stacking up the traffic behind you.

