

Understanding Auxiliary Lanes

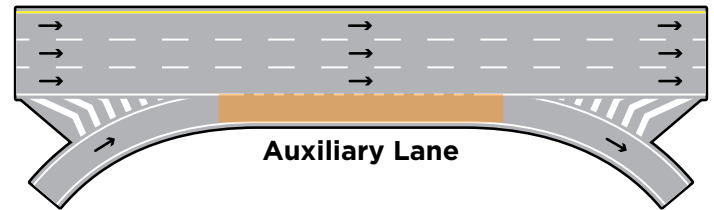
» Learn more about the benefits of auxiliary lanes at fdot.tips/auxlanes

What Are Auxiliary Lanes?

An auxiliary lane is an additional lane that typically connects the entrance and exit ramps of two consecutive interchanges. Auxiliary lanes are a vital component of Florida's highway infrastructure.

The additional lane allows drivers wanting to merge onto or off the interstate a longer distance to do so and helps reduce bottlenecks caused by drivers attempting to enter or exit the general use lanes of the highway. Auxiliary lanes act as a buffer, providing drivers with more time to adjust their speed and safely merge into the flow of traffic.

These lanes, which are easily identifiable by the striping, are strategically designed to facilitate smoother traffic flow and enhance safety for all drivers.



HOW TO USE AUXILIARY LANES:

- **Prepare in advance:** As you approach an interchange, pay attention to signage indicating upcoming exits and entrances. Plan your lane changes accordingly to utilize the auxiliary lane effectively.
- **Merge safely:** When entering an auxiliary lane, maintain a safe speed and be prepared to merge into the flow of traffic. Use your turn signal to indicate your intention to merge, and yield to vehicles already in that lane.
- **Plan your exit:** If you need to exit the highway, signal your intention to exit in advance and merge safely into the auxiliary lane to exit.
- **Be courteous:** Remember to be courteous to other drivers. Allow ample space for merging vehicles and avoid sudden lane changes or aggressive driving behaviors.
- **Use the lanes properly.** Auxiliary lanes are not intended to be used by drivers who wish to pass other cars in the general use lanes. If you are continuing through an area with an auxiliary lane, remain in the general use lanes. Remember that those drivers will have to merge into the general use lanes at the end of the auxiliary lane. Having additional vehicles in the auxiliary lanes creates more congestion for everyone.

By understanding and utilizing auxiliary lanes effectively, we can all contribute to safer and more efficient travel experiences on Florida's highways.



Florida Department of Transportation
District Five

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