

DRIVING WITH URBAN ARTERIAL HOV LANES



*“What Your
Washington
Driver Guide
Does Not
Teach
You.”*

A Helpful Guide for Federal Way Commuters



**BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOUR
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Contact Us!

PUBLIC WORKS

253-661-4131

PUBLIC SAFETY

253-661-4707

E-MAIL

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**THIS GUIDE WILL
EXPLAIN TO DRIVERS
THE BEST WAY TO
NAVIGATE OUR CITY
USING HOV LANES
AND U-TURNS SAFELY,
LEGALLY, AND
EFFICIENTLY.**

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DRIVING WITH URBAN ARTERIAL HOV LANES

As you may have noticed, Federal Way is now home to HOV lanes along many of our major roadways.

HOV lanes have been installed on S 348th Street, on SR 99 (S 312th to S 324th), and on S 320th Street. The completion of the Pacific Hwy S HOV Lanes Phase II Project will extend HOV lanes to S 340th Street.

Many drivers want to know why the inside lane was not designated as the carpool lane, rather than the general purpose or “through” lane, as is done on freeways. Designating the curb lane is necessary to allow for bus passengers to load and unload safely at the curb, and to also allow for right turn movements.

The objective of installing HOV lanes in the city streets is to improve traffic & pedestrian safety and circulation; support the use of transit and carpools, and right turn movements.

While these improvements will certainly accomplish their objectives, many drivers have not encountered urban HOV lanes, and aren't sure how to use them.

If after reviewing this guide, you still have unanswered questions, please contact us by e-mail, hovlanes@cityoffederalway.com or by calling the Public Works Department at 253-661-4131.



USING HOV LANES

The most common question drivers of a single-occupancy vehicle ask is: “When and where am I supposed to enter the HOV lane to make a right turn?”

Answer: “It is legal for you to occupy the HOV lane from **ONE SIGNALIZED** intersection to the following signalized intersection.” However, you must exit the HOV lane by either turning right at the intersection, right into a business, or by changing lanes to the left.

CITY OF FEDERAL WAY OFFICERS WILL SITE HOV LANE ABUSE WITH THEIR OWN DISCRETION

Below are clarifications to common myths associated with urban HOV Lanes:

MYTH: This sign means the same as the HOV signs on the Freeway.

FACT: NO! This sign has been modified to allow right turning movements.

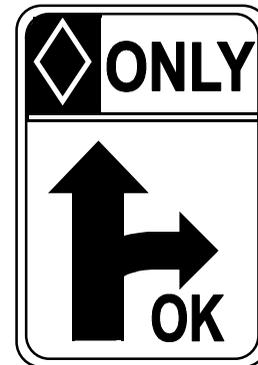
MYTH: I have to make a right turn into a business from the travel lane, not the HOV lane.

FACT: NO! A right-turning vehicle is **REQUIRED** to turn into driveways from the HOV lane. It is **ILLEGAL** to turn right from the travel lane.

MYTH: When exiting business driveways and entering the roadway, I must drive through the HOV lane and enter traffic directly in the general purpose or “through” lane

FACT: NO! The HOV lanes are intended as acceleration lanes for vehicles entering the roadway. Enter the HOV lane to accelerate, and change lanes at your first safe opportunity.

Alternately, you may continue traveling in the HOV lane to turn right at the next signalized intersection or turn right into another driveway.



EXITING HOV LANES

Single-occupancy vehicles (SOV) are legally able to utilize the HOV lanes. In some cases, SOV's are required to utilize the HOV lanes. However, it is important for SOV drivers to know when they must exit this restricted lane.

This sign is intended to remind/inform **SOV's** that they **MUST TURN RIGHT AT THE INTERSECTION.**

It is **ILLEGAL** to proceed through the intersection if you are not an HOV unless you are turning right into the first driveway after the intersection. This illegal maneuver will be enforced by the Federal Way Police Department.

HOV's, including buses, may legally proceed straight through the intersection, continuing their travel in the HOV lane.



LEGAL U-TURNS

The City is encouraging use of **LEGAL** U-turns where appropriate. Because of newly constructed medians along SR 99, drivers are restricted to right turns into and out of

businesses, and U-turns will be occurring with greater frequency.

Drivers in the inside left-turn lane as signed with a green signal are legally permitted to make U-turns. These drivers have the right of way over vehicles taking a “free right hand turn” on a red signal.

WHEN MAKING LEGAL RIGHT TURNS AT RED SIGNALS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER TO YIELD & WATCH FOR VEHICLES MAKING U-TURNS.

MYTH: Once stopped at a steady red signal, a driver turning right has right of way over vehicles making U-Turns.

FACT: NO! A vehicle turning right is required by law to yield to through traffic, pedestrians, and U-turns.

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THESE GUIDELINES INTO CONSIDERATION AS YOU TRAVEL THE STREETS OF FEDERAL WAY. PLEASE REMEMBER TO DRIVE COURTEOUSLY, SAFELY, AND WITH CARE.

