

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CENTRAL
FLORIDA
EXPRESSWAY
AUTHORITY

FLEX 
LANES

 www.CFXway.com  407-885-4743  Construction@CFXway.com  @CFXway

EARLY 2025

WHAT ARE FLEX LANES?

Flex Lanes use a wider shoulder to allow traffic to continue flowing when an incident causes a closure in one or more of the right lanes. The lanes will be controlled by dynamic overhead messaging signs that show which lanes are open and which lanes are closed. For an informational video that shows the driver experience of using Flex Lanes, [click here](#).

WHEN WILL FLEX LANES BECOME OPERATIONAL?

Flex Lanes technology is being installed on 22 miles of SR 417 and 13 miles of SR 429 in Orange County. CFX anticipates that the Flex Lanes on SR 417 and SR 429 will become fully operational by mid-2025. The remaining corridor will activate Flex Lanes as construction completes. The SR 429 Flex Lanes located between SR 414 and Tilden Road are anticipated to open in 2025.

WHY FLEX LANES, AND WHY SR 417 AND SR 429?

Central Florida is one of the fastest growing regions in the US. That growth has resulted in increased traffic volume on CFX's 125-mile expressway system. In just five years, traffic volumes have doubled on the sections of SR 417 and SR 429 where Flex Lanes are being introduced. The Flex Lanes system was designed into the capacity improvements projects currently underway in these corridors.

DO OTHER STATES HAVE FLEX LANES?

CFX has evaluated programs in 18 other states where shoulder use is part of their traffic management strategy. The Flex Lane program at CFX is a culmination of best practices across the country.

HOW WILL YOU KEEP DRIVERS FROM USING THE FLEX LANE WHEN IT'S NOT OPEN?

The Flex Lane is separated from standard lanes by a rumble strip and solid yellow striping, making it clear to drivers that it is not a lane typically used for regular traffic. A red X will be displayed above the Flex Lane during times of normal traffic to indicate it is closed. Florida Highway Patrol will be issuing tickets to any drivers using the lane improperly.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CAR BREAKS DOWN IN THE FLEX LANE?

Ideally, drivers who are experiencing car trouble should pull to the far-right side of the highway for safety reasons, but we understand that may not be possible. If you break down in the Flex Lane, please dial *347 for assistance from the CFX Road Rangers.

WILL I HAVE TO PAY AN EXTRA TOLL TO USE THE FLEX LANE?

No extra tolls or fees are collected when using the Flex Lanes.

HOW ARE THE FLEX LANE GANTRIES SPACED?

Flex Lane gantries are spaced every .5 miles along the project corridor.

HOW WILL THIS MAKE MY COMMUTE SAFER?

The Flex Lanes system will improve motorist awareness and reduce congestion. The system uses overhead signs to communicate to drivers in real-time. If a crash or incident blocks one or more of the right lanes, drivers will be directed to move out of the right lanes and into the Flex Lane.

IS THERE A PENALTY FOR DRIVERS NOT USING THE FLEX LANE AS INTENDED?

Failure to follow overhead signs could result in a \$164 fine and 3 points assessed to the driver license.

HOW ARE FLEX LANES MONITORED?

CFX monitors its expressways from the FDOT District Five Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC). Designated Operators will monitor the Flex Lanes on SR 417 and SR 429. These operators will monitor video cameras, operate the software system that controls the overhead signals, and be in communication with law enforcement, fire / EMS workers, Road Rangers, towing contractors, and others.

IS THE FLEX LANE AVAILABILITY BASED UPON TIME OF DAY?

No. The Flex Lane will initially be used for incident management purposes only.

WILL FLEX LANES BE USED FOR CONGESTION MANAGEMENT?

Eventually, yes. For now, the Flex Lane will only be used for incident management purposes.

IF I HAVE A FLAT TIRE AND I AM CHANGING IT WITHIN THE FLEX LANE, WILL VEHICLES STILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE LANE?

No. The lane will not open if a car is pulled over inside the Flex Lane.

HOW WILL FLEX LANES BE CLEARED OF DEBRIS TO ENSURE A SAFE DRIVING EXPERIENCE WHEN ACTIVATED?

Lanes are regularly inspected with cameras, and CFX conducts enhanced shoulder sweeping on the Flex Lanes. Before opening the Flex Lane, a Road Ranger or CFX representative will drive the lane to verify that it is clear.

HOW WILL EMERGENCY VEHICLES GET TO A ROAD-BLOCKING CRASH?

Emergency vehicles can legally drive on the right or left side of expressways to reach crash sites. They will be permitted to do so on SR 417 and SR 429 even if a red X is displayed over the Flex Lane. Additionally, the RTMC Operator will coordinate with emergency responders and Road Rangers to confirm that emergency vehicles have reached the crash site before opening the Flex Lane to traffic.