

RESEARCH PROBLEM STATEMENT

DATE: 8/15/2020	PROJECT AREA: Special Projects
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TITLE: Center Turn Lane Markings

PROBLEM STATEMENT:

The center bi-directional turn lane (Odie-Lane) offers convenience but occasionally happenstance allows vehicles with good intentions to interfere with concurrent hazardous vehicle movements in opposite directions in the same lane at the same time. Some cars use it as an acceleration lane, while some pull in to it without signaling causing a hazardous condition.

A few things come to mind that might reduce the frequency of this problem. Normally these lanes are bordered on both sides with a solid yellow stripe and a dotted stripe next to it. My suggestion is to have a double yellow stripe on the less preferred side to discourage drivers from crossing for a short "TOO LATE TO AVOID ZONE" ideally it would only be about 2 car lengths, (so if a car waited to pull over by then he would know if another car has taken that lane). Also, the little reflectors could be placed to alert the entering to the left cars that want to use it as an acceleration lane of hazard concerns.

It would be a beneficial university study project for Highway Engineer Students at Arkansas Tech University to engage in Arkansas Highway safety improvements. Dr. Richard Schoephoerster (rschoephoerster@atu.edu)

OBJECTIVES:

To make the turn lanes safer and to create awareness that could prevent accidents in particular portions of lanes where drivers are being too self-focused and not taking consideration of other driver's potential actions.

FORM OF RESEARCH IMPLEMENTATION AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT:

The cost to get student involvement would most likely pay back in non-tangible terms many times over. The cost of investigating and deciding on where to put them could be reduced by checking local police accident records. The cost of putting the stripes on could gradually be done with other strip activities to minimize manpower and traffic obstructions during installation of the short stripes.

Estimated Project Duration: 12 Months

PREPARED BY: Don White

AGENCY:

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Standing Subcommittee Ranking	Advisory Council Ranking	Statement Combined with Statement Number(s)
<u>9/9</u>	<u>27</u>	_____