



CENTRAL TEXAS REGIONAL  
MOBILITY AUTHORITY

# KNOW BEFORE YOU GO: MOPAC SAFETY TIPS



## AT THE MOBILITY AUTHORITY, WE TAKE SAFETY VERY SERIOUSLY.

We know that new traffic patterns can be confusing for drivers who are used to making the same movements on the roadways they travel every day. While the new MoPac Express Lane will help reduce congestion, there will be a learning curve as drivers learn how to use it. Here are some things to keep in mind:



### New traffic patterns for northbound and southbound drivers:

**Northbound:** The northbound MoPac Express Lane created two new merge points.

1. Drivers entering the Express Lane from downtown via the undercrossing will merge with northbound traffic already in the Express Lane coming from south of the river.
2. Drivers entering the Express Lane near RM 2222 will merge with northbound traffic already in the Express Lane.

**Southbound:** While drivers entering the southbound Express Lane near Parmer Lane will have a dedicated lane and no traffic to merge with, drivers should be aware of the following new movements/merge points:

1. Drivers entering or exiting the Express Lane near RM 2222 will merge with southbound traffic already in the lane they are entering.
2. Drivers taking the Express Lane towards the river will have the following options when the Express Lane ends:
  - Merge into the general-purpose lanes and continue southbound on MoPac across the river
  - Take the ramp towards downtown via 5th Street/Cesar Chavez Street

**New traffic pattern at Winsted Lane:** Drivers entering southbound MoPac via the Winsted on-ramp (south of Enfield Road) no longer have a dedicated lane and must merge with traffic already in the southbound general-purpose lane upon entering MoPac.

**Express Lane entry and exit points do not have an auxiliary lane, it is simply a tapered merge. Drivers are encouraged to use "alternate merging" where motorists alternate in a "zipper" fashion, utilizing the full length of the merge area.**



## EXPRESS LANE DRIVERS WILL ENCOUNTER MERGE CONDITIONS VERY SIMILAR TO MANY OTHERS IN THE AUSTIN AREA.



### Tips for safe merging:

- ▶ **Exercise caution when merging** with traffic of differing rates of speed; either slow down or speed up once you identify a safe gap to merge into
- ▶ When there is enough space to merge, **match the speed** of vehicles in the Express Lane
- ▶ Drivers are encouraged to participate in **"alternate merging"** at the Express Lane entry and exit points.
- ▶ **Use your turn signal** to notify other drivers of your intentions
- ▶ **Do not stop** before merging
- ▶ **Check your blind spots**, and keep an eye on how much of the merge lane remains
- ▶ **Keep a safe distance** from the vehicle ahead of you
- ▶ **Be aware** of other drivers
- ▶ **Drive friendly** and allow others to merge with you



### Undercrossing safety:

Approaching the undercrossings near the downtown connection may take some drivers by surprise because it is a new movement. Once you approach the undercrossing, do not stop, slow down, or attempt to back up, even if you entered the undercrossing by mistake.