



FLEX LANE FACTS

Understanding Flex Lanes

To learn more about ADOT's commitment to safety and how we are connecting Arizona, please visit [Improving17.com/flex-lanes](https://improving17.com/flex-lanes). Everything you need to know about Arizona's first flex lanes system can be found under the Flex Lanes tab. This includes the flex lanes design and construction, how they work, the safety operations and technology, frequently asked questions, and an animated video.



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Other Project Improvements

I-17 is being improved between Anthem Way and Sunset Point. In addition to the eight miles of flex lanes between Black Canyon City and Sunset Point, a third lane is being added to the 15-mile stretch between Anthem Way and Black Canyon City. Two bridges are being replaced in the 23-mile corridor, while 10 others are being widened. This project will increase capacity in both the northbound and southbound directions, helping to alleviate traffic congestion, improve traffic flow, and create a safer corridor.



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Innovating Capacity

Flex lanes on Arizona's state highway system are coming to Interstate 17 in 2025 as part of the I-17 Improvement Project. The flex lanes system is a proven technology to safely address traffic congestion. The flex lanes will be an additional two-lane roadway that carries one direction of traffic at a time and can alternate between north- and southbound directions during peak travel times, or if there is a crash or another emergency situation that causes traffic delays. The flex lanes will be operational seven days a week and open, as needed, to whichever direction has the heaviest traffic.

How It Works

Northbound traffic will enter the flex lanes at Coldwater Road.

Southbound traffic will enter the flex lanes at Sunset Point.

Vehicles will use a crossover lane with overhead guide signs and a swinging arm gate system to access the flex lanes.

There will be no vehicle restrictions on the flex lanes, but there will be signs recommending slower-moving vehicles remain in the general purpose lanes.

The speed limit on the flex lanes will be 65 mph.

Drivers in the flex lanes will not be able to access the Coldwater Road, Bumble Bee, or Sunset Point exits.

The flex lanes will not be tolled.

The flex lanes will be operational seven days a week.

Typically, the flex lanes will be open to northbound traffic Monday through Saturday and southbound traffic on Sunday. However, they will open, as needed, to whichever direction has the heaviest traffic.



The flex lanes will run adjacent to the southbound lanes and will be separated by a concrete barrier.



FLEX LANE FACTS

Safety First

The flex lanes are constructed with safety as the top priority. Key flex lane safety features will be used to prevent vehicles from entering the flex lanes when traffic is flowing in the opposite direction. Prior to a change of direction for the traffic in the flex lanes, all traffic from the current direction will be cleared, then specific safety operations will take place to ensure the flex lanes are ready for a change of direction.



Automated swinging arm gates on both sides of the VAB will extend when the flex lanes are closed to a direction of traffic, blocking the entrances to the lanes and indicating to drivers that the flex lanes are closed in the direction they're traveling.



The ADOT Traffic Operations Center will monitor the flex lanes with cameras and will control the gates and VAB remotely.



A specialized, automated Vehicle Arresting Barrier (VAB) is located at both ends of the flex lanes and will be used to prevent vehicles from entering the flex lanes when traffic is flowing in the opposite direction.

