

# PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2020

## I-66 Express Lanes Inside the Beltway

### I-66 EXPRESS LANES 2020 OVERVIEW

The COVID-19 pandemic led to reduced traffic volumes across the region and state beginning in mid-March 2020 and continuing throughout the year. With many employers shifting to work-from-home policies, there were notable reductions in rush hour traffic on Northern Virginia highways to include reductions in carpooling, mass transit ridership, and solo driving. Lower traffic volumes resulted in lower toll rates, especially during morning commutes. Volumes, tolls, and carpool rates increased slowly in the second half of 2020 but remained well below pre-pandemic levels.

I-66 Eastbound Widening Project construction continued during 2020, with an additional travel lane opening on December 11 on I-66 East between the Dulles Connector Road and Exit 71 (Glebe Road/Fairfax Drive).

### USAGE AND TOLL PRICE HIGHLIGHTS

- In January, February, and early March 2020, I-66 Express Lanes usage and tolls were up from previous year levels. Traffic volumes in the Express Lanes and across the region began to fall the week of March 9 (the Commonwealth declared a state of emergency on March 12). By the end of the month, Express Lanes traffic was down more than 65% compared with previous year daily levels.
- The drop in traffic volume during March caused morning trips in Q1 2020 to be down 8.5% – from 15,014 daily trips to 13,741 – compared to averages in Q1 2019. Daily trips during afternoons in Q1 2020 finished down 9.9% – from 17,533 to 15,806 – compared to 2019 averages.
- Average daily volumes were at their lowest in Q2 2020, with daily averages down 60.4% (to 6,065) in mornings and down 57.3% (to 7,909) in afternoons compared to Q2 2019 levels.
- Average daily volumes rebounded partially in the second half of the year, with morning levels down 39.1% (to 8,347) in Q3 2020 and down 39.2% (to 8,283) in Q4 2020 compared to 2019 levels for Q3 and Q4. Afternoon volumes recovered a bit more, down 35.2% (to 11,222) and 29.3% (to 11,506) in Q3 and Q4, respectively.
- Carpools traveling free (HOV) ranged between 23.95% in Q2 and 26.14% in Q4, down from the 2019 average of 43.73%.
- Average price for trips began 2020 higher than in 2019 (up 18.8% and 5.0% for round trips in January and February 2020 compared to the same months in 2019). The onset of the pandemic reduced traffic and resulted in sharp drops in average price for trips.
- Average price for round trips was down 79.8% in Q2, recovering slightly in Q3 (down 68.9%) and Q4 (down 68.1%). The drop in price was larger and more consistent in mornings (down 83.9%, 78.0%, and 77.6% during Q2 through Q4) than in afternoons (down 72.8%, 54.4%, and 52.1%).

EXPRESS LANES	2018	2019	2020				
	YEAR	YEAR	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR
Avg. Daily Trips Eastbound	14,604	14,416	13,741	6,065	8,347	8,283	9,109
Avg. Daily Trips Westbound	17,442	17,416	15,806	7,909	11,222	11,506	11,611
E-ZPass in HOV (Free) Mode	43.13%	43.73%	42.97%	23.95%	25.17%	26.14%	29.56%
E-ZPass in SOV* (Toll) Mode	44.67%	45.61%	46.93%	59.08%	57.05%	57.45%	55.13%
Vehicles Using E-ZPass	87.80%	89.34%	89.90%	83.04%	82.21%	83.58%	84.69%

TOLL PRICES	2018	2019	2020				
	YEAR	YEAR	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	YEAR
Avg. Price Round Trip	\$12.56	\$11.88	\$9.99	\$2.65	\$3.76	\$3.77	\$5.04
Avg. Price Eastbound	\$8.01	\$7.34	\$6.64	\$1.32	\$1.64	\$1.66	\$2.82
Avg. Price Westbound	\$4.55	\$4.54	\$3.35	\$1.33	\$2.12	\$2.11	\$2.22
Trips Over \$40	11,123	24,730	2,993	0	0	0	2,993
Avg Price EB 5:30-6:30 AM**	\$2.19	\$1.70	\$1.99	\$1.44	\$1.39	\$1.39	\$1.55

## I-66 EXPRESS LANES INSIDE THE BELTWAY

### AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME HIGHLIGHTS

- The I-66 Express Lanes saw faster average speeds and travel times in 2020, consistent with other highways in the region that experienced reduced traffic volume and reduced congestion during the COVID-19 pandemic. Average speeds and travel times were also faster on parallel arterials – Route 50, Route 29, Route 7, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway.
- Travel speeds during morning periods Tuesday through Thursday averaged 59.0 miles per hour (mph) in 2020, compared to 49.8 mph in 2019 and 48.0 mph in 2017 (pre-Express Lanes). Average travel time was 10.6 minutes in 2020, compared with 12.5 minutes in 2019 and 13.0 minutes in 2017.
- Travel speeds during afternoon periods Tuesday through Thursday averaged 57.4 mph in 2020, compared to 53.4 mph in 2019 and 45.7 mph in 2017 (pre-Express Lanes). Average travel time was 11.1 minutes in 2020, compared with 11.9 minutes in 2019 and 13.9 minutes in 2017.
- Average travel speeds were steady throughout the four-hour morning and afternoon tolling periods during 2020.

### I-66 AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME

#### EASTBOUND

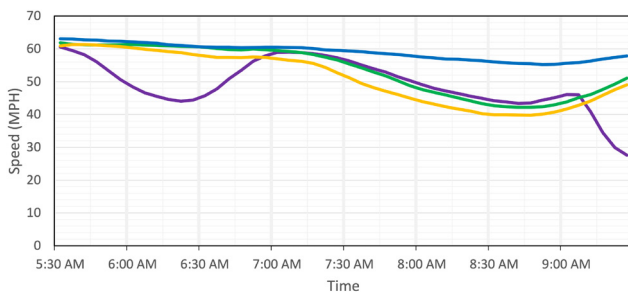
5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Speed (MPH)	48.0	52.5	49.8	59.0
Travel Time (Minutes)	13.0	11.9	12.5	10.6

#### WESTBOUND

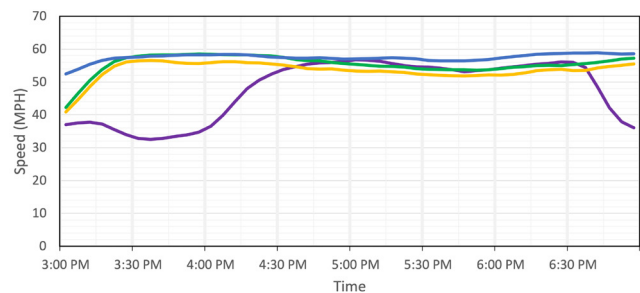
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Speed (MPH)	45.7	55.3	53.4	57.4
Travel Time (Minutes)	13.9	11.5	11.9	11.1

### I-66 | AVERAGE SPEED

#### EASTBOUND

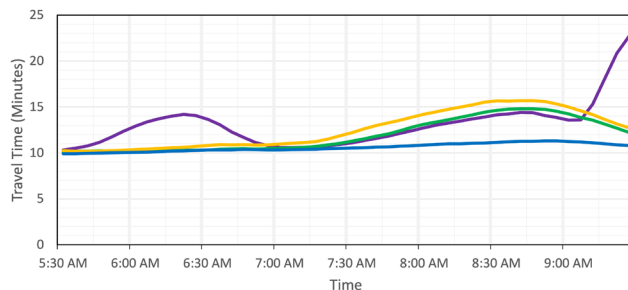


#### WESTBOUND

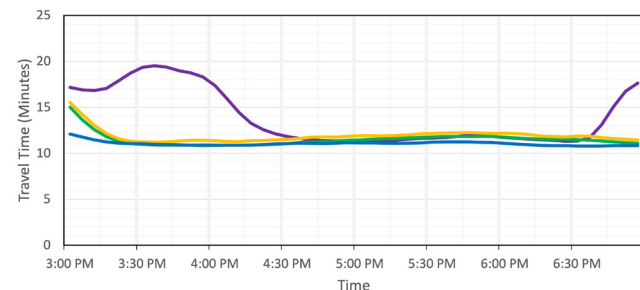


### I-66 | AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME

#### EASTBOUND



#### WESTBOUND



2017 —

2018 —

2019 —

2020 —

I-66 EXPRESS LANES INSIDE THE BELTWAY

**ROUTE 50 AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME**

EASTBOUND

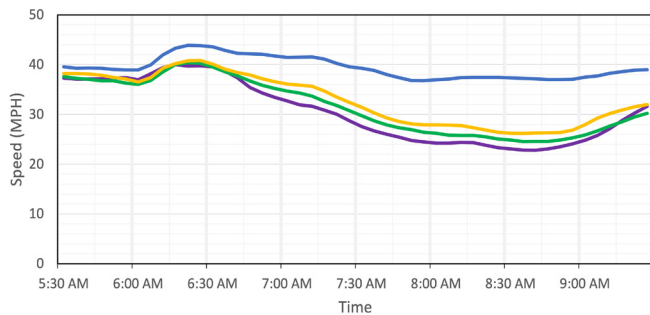
5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Speed (MPH)	30.7	31.9	33.5	40.9
Travel Time (Minutes)	19.1	18.3	17.4	14.3

WESTBOUND

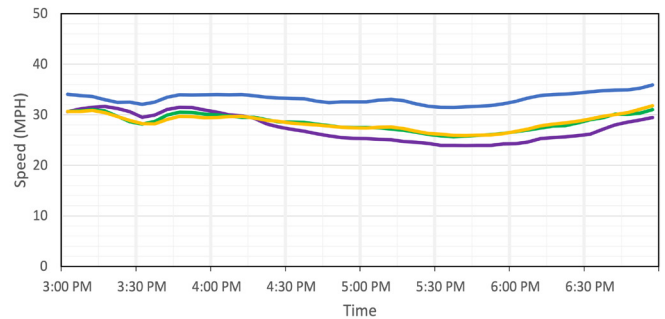
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Speed (MPH)	27.9	29.1	29.1	34.1
Travel Time (Minutes)	20.7	19.8	19.8	16.9

**ROUTE 50 | AVERAGE SPEED**

EASTBOUND

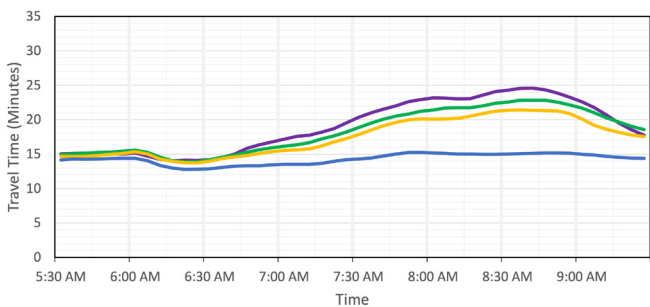


WESTBOUND

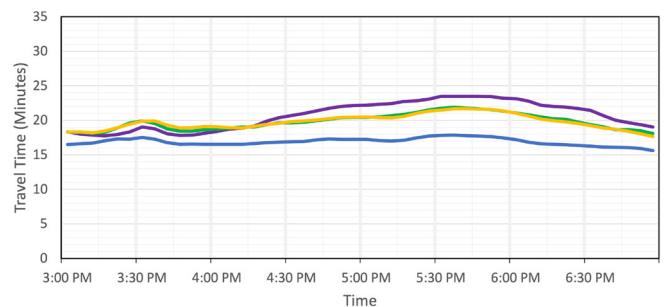


**ROUTE 50 | AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME**

EASTBOUND



WESTBOUND



2017 —

2018 —

2019 —

2020 —

## I-66 EXPRESS LANES INSIDE THE BELTWAY

### ROUTE 29 AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME

#### NORTHBOUND

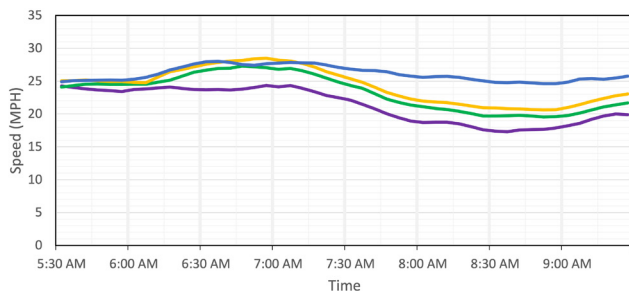
5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Speed (MPH)	21.5	23.5	24.5	26.6
Travel Time (Minutes)	25.0	22.9	21.9	20.2

#### SOUTHBOUND

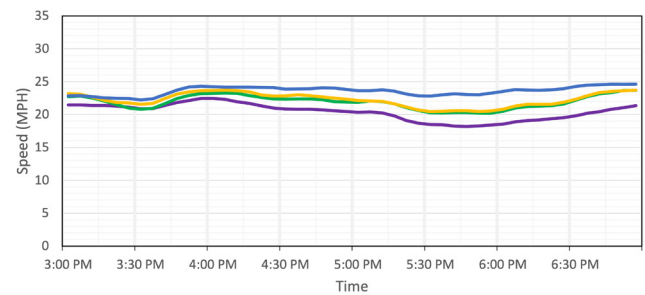
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Speed (MPH)	20.2	21.7	22.0	23.4
Travel Time (Minutes)	25.5	23.7	23.3	21.9

### ROUTE 29 | AVERAGE SPEED

#### NORTHBOUND

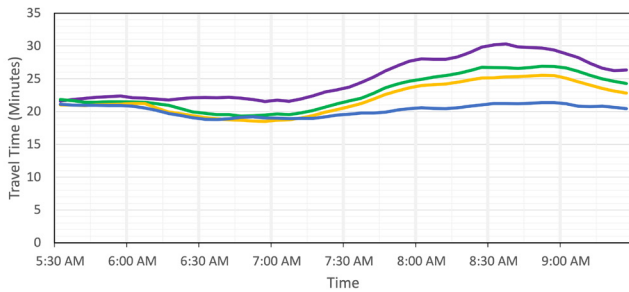


#### SOUTHBOUND

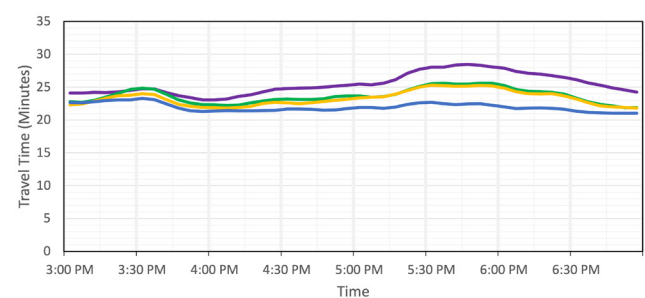


### ROUTE 29 | AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME

#### NORTHBOUND



#### SOUTHBOUND



2017 

2018 

2019 

2020 

**I-66 EXPRESS LANES INSIDE THE BELTWAY**

**ROUTE 7 AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME**

**EASTBOUND**

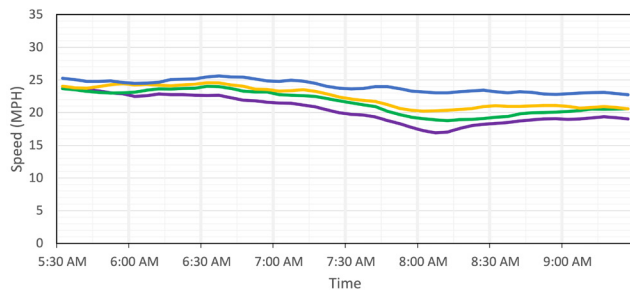
5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Speed (MPH)	22.6	23.7	24.7	26.6
Travel Time (Minutes)	11.9	11.3	10.9	10.1

**WESTBOUND**

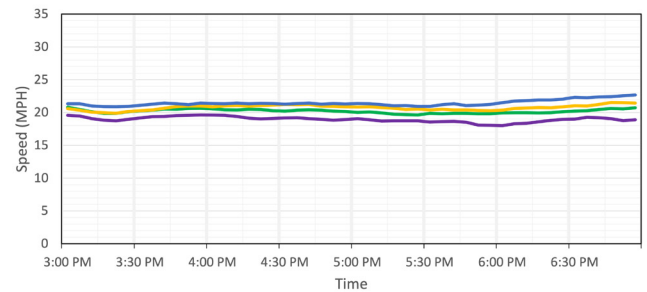
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Speed (MPH)	20.9	22.3	22.9	23.6
Travel Time (Minutes)	13.1	12.3	12.0	11.6

**ROUTE 7 | AVERAGE SPEED**

**EASTBOUND**

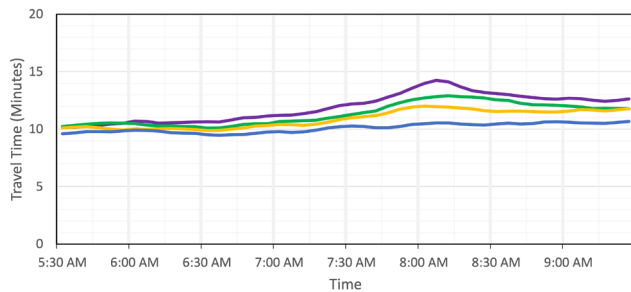


**WESTBOUND**

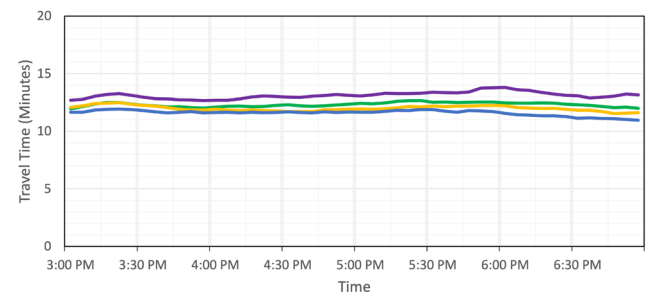


**ROUTE 7 | AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME**

**EASTBOUND**



**WESTBOUND**



2017 —

2018 —

2019 —

2020 —

## I-66 EXPRESS LANES INSIDE THE BELTWAY

### GW PARKWAY AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME

#### SOUTHBOUND

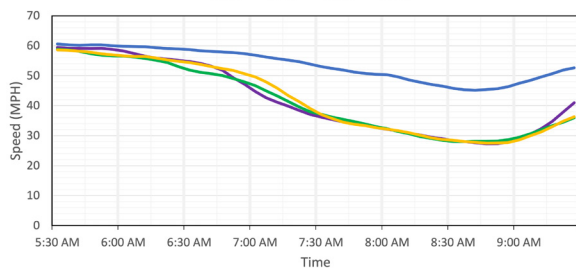
5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Speed (MPH)	39.4	38.6	38.9	53.1
Travel Time (Minutes)	13.2	13.4	13.3	9.8

#### NORTHBOUND

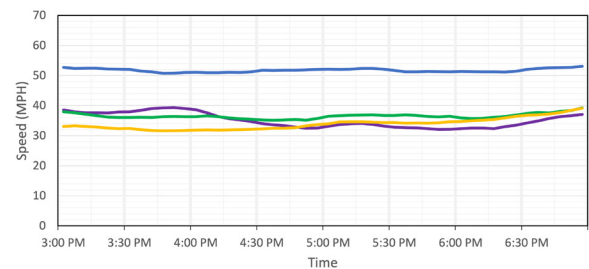
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	2017	2018	2019	2020
Average Speed (MPH)	35.2	36.5	33.8	51.7
Travel Time (Minutes)	14.6	14.1	15.2	9.9

### GW PARKWAY | AVERAGE SPEED

#### SOUTHBOUND

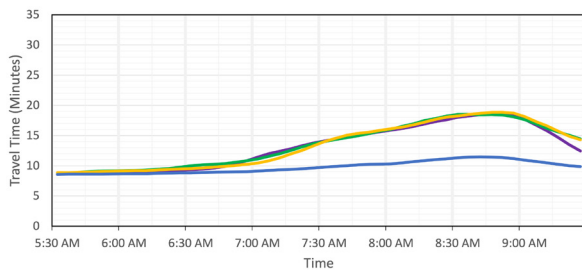


#### NORTHBOUND

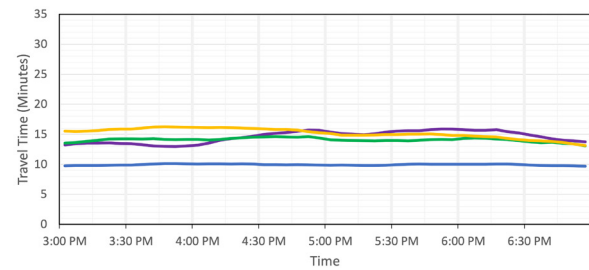


### GW PARKWAY | AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME

#### SOUTHBOUND



#### NORTHBOUND



2017 —

2018 —

2019 —

2020 —