

# PERFORMANCE REPORT FOR 2021

## I-66 Express Lanes Inside the Beltway

### I-66 EXPRESS LANES 2021 OVERVIEW

Traffic volumes continued to slowly recover in 2021 as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed. An increasing number of people returned to in-office work as 2021 advanced, with corresponding increases in traffic volumes and tolls. With commuter bus, carpool, van pool, and Metrorail ridership remaining well below pre-pandemic levels, toll paying solo drivers comprised an increased majority of transactions in the Express Lanes.

Travelers during morning periods in 2021 benefitted from the additional travel lane that opened in December 2020 on I-66 East between the Dulles Connector Road and Exit 71 (Glebe Road/Fairfax Drive).

### USAGE AND TOLL PRICE HIGHLIGHTS

- Daily trips increased steadily as 2021 progressed, with average morning levels rising from 8,552 in Q1 2021 to 12,131 in Q4 2021. Average evening levels also increased as the year progressed, from 11,344 in Q1 2021 to 16,146 in Q4 2021. Compared with Q4 2019 levels (pre-pandemic), the average levels for Q4 2021 were down by 10.9% (mornings) and 0.8% (evenings).
- Carpools traveling free (HOV) ranged around 26% of vehicles during Q1 through Q3 2021, but increased to 27.08% of trips in Q4 2021. This remained well below the 2019 average of 43.73%.
- Average price for trips increased each quarter for morning and evening periods. Average morning tolls rose from \$1.65 in Q1 2021 to \$2.84 in Q4 2021, but remained well below the \$7.34 average in 2019. There were no tolls over \$40 during 2021.
- Average evening tolls rose from \$1.76 in Q1 2021 to \$3.20 in Q4 2021, edging closer to the \$4.54 average in 2019. Of note, average morning tolls were lower than average evening tolls during 2021, something not seen during pre-pandemic times. These relatively lower morning tolls can be attributed to changing commute patterns (reduced travel volumes during mornings) and the opening of the additional lane on I-66 East (increased roadway capacity).

EXPRESS LANES	2019	2020	2021			
	YEAR	YEAR	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Avg. Daily Trips Eastbound	14,416	9,109	8,551	10,430	11,471	12,131
Avg. Daily Trips Westbound	17,416	11,611	11,343	13,821	14,804	16,146
E-ZPass in HOV (Free) Mode	43.73%	29.56%	26.07%	25.96%	25.89%	27.08%
E-ZPass in SOV* (Toll) Mode	45.61%	55.13%	59.08%	58.59%	58.87%	58.57%
Vehicles Using E-ZPass	89.34%	84.69%	85.09%	84.55%	84.76%	85.65%

TOLL PRICES	2019	2020	2021			
	YEAR	YEAR	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Avg. Price Round Trip	\$11.88	\$5.04	\$3.41	\$4.37	\$5.23	\$6.04
Avg. Price Eastbound	\$7.34	\$2.82	\$1.65	\$2.04	\$2.45	\$2.84
Avg. Price Westbound	\$4.54	\$2.22	\$1.76	\$2.33	\$2.77	\$3.20
Trips Over \$40	24,730	2,993	0	0	0	0
Avg Price EB 5:30-6:30 AM**	\$1.70	\$1.55	\$1.44	\$1.42	\$1.42	\$1.43

## I-66 EXPRESS LANES INSIDE THE BELTWAY

### AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME HIGHLIGHTS

- The I-66 Express Lanes saw average speeds and travel times in 2021 that exceeded 2020 and 2019 averages, consistent with the reduced commuter traffic volume and associated congestion during the COVID-19 pandemic. Average speeds and travel times were also faster than during pre-pandemic conditions on parallel arterials – Route 50, Route 29, Route 7, and the George Washington Memorial Parkway.
- Travel speeds during morning periods Tuesday through Thursday averaged 62.6 miles per hour (mph) in 2021, compared to 49.8 mph in 2019 and 48.0 mph in 2017 (pre-Express Lanes). Average travel time was 10.0 minutes in 2021, compared with 12.5 minutes in 2019 and 13.0 minutes in 2017.
- Travel speeds during afternoon periods Tuesday through Thursday averaged 59.0 mph in 2021, compared to 53.4 mph in 2019 and 45.7 mph in 2017 (pre-Express Lanes). Average travel time was 10.8 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

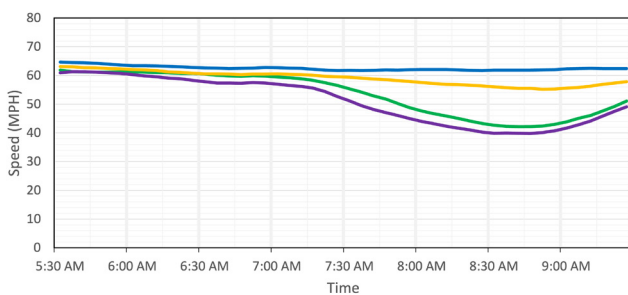
5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Speed (MPH)	52.5	49.8	59.0	62.6
Travel Time (Minutes)	11.9	12.5	10.6	10.0

#### WESTBOUND

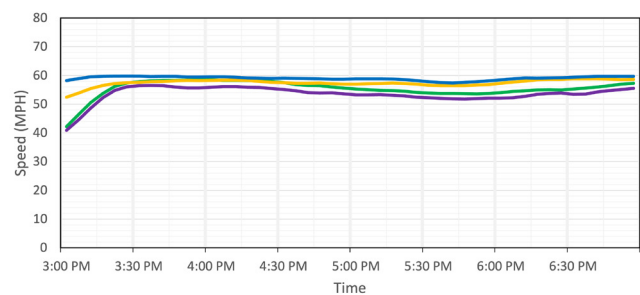
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Speed (MPH)	55.3	53.4	57.4	59.0
Travel Time (Minutes)	11.5	11.9	11.1	10.8

### I-66 | AVERAGE SPEED

#### EASTBOUND

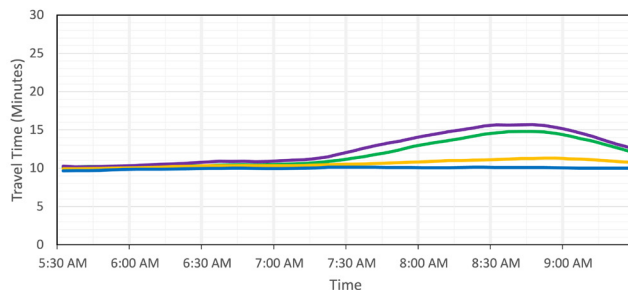


#### WESTBOUND

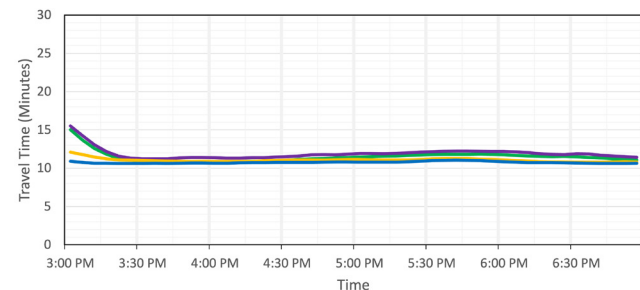


### I-66 | AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME

#### EASTBOUND



#### WESTBOUND



2018 —
2019 —
2020 —
2021 —

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

**ROUTE 50 AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME**

**EASTBOUND**

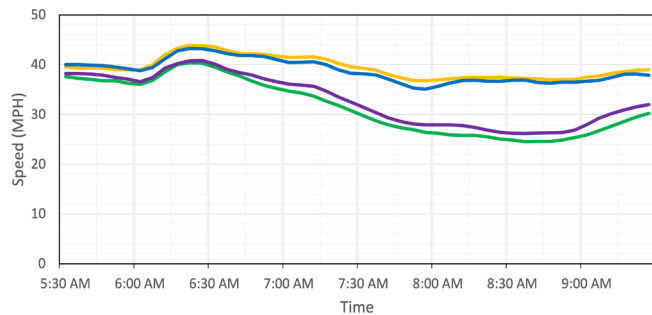
5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Speed (MPH)	31.9	33.5	40.9	40.2
Travel Time (Minutes)	18.3	17.4	14.3	14.5

**WESTBOUND**

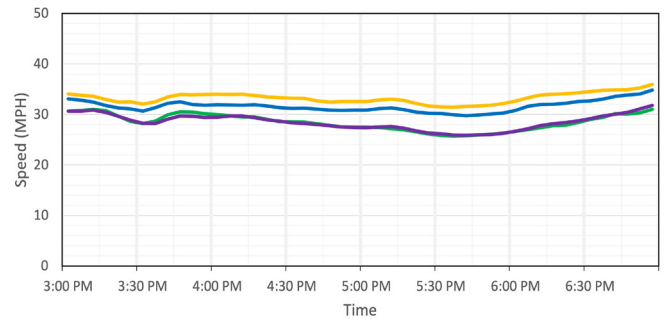
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Speed (MPH)	29.1	29.1	34.1	32.4
Travel Time (Minutes)	19.8	19.8	16.9	17.8

**ROUTE 50 | AVERAGE SPEED**

**EASTBOUND**

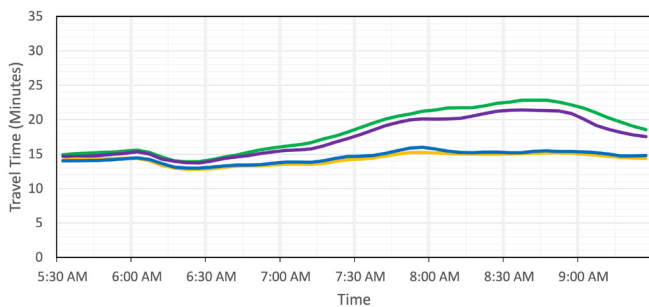


**WESTBOUND**

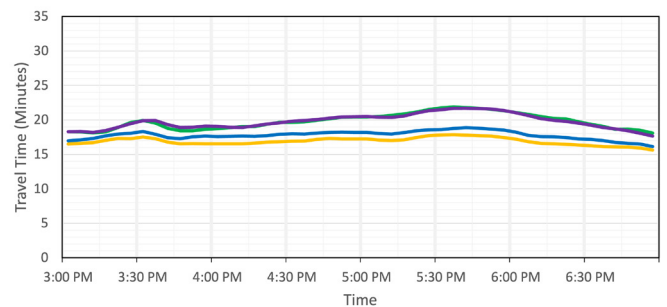


**ROUTE 50 | AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME**

**EASTBOUND**



**WESTBOUND**



2018 —

2019 —

2020 —

2021 —

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

**ROUTE 29 AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME**

**NORTHBOUND**

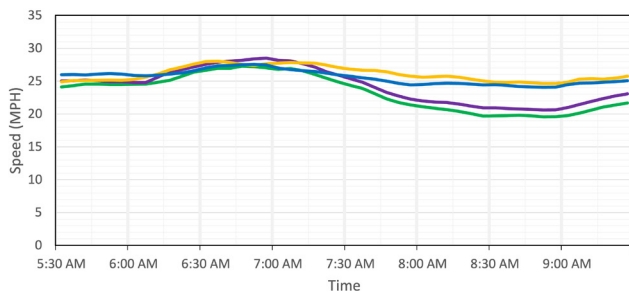
5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Speed (MPH)	23.5	24.5	26.6	26.1
Travel Time (Minutes)	22.9	21.9	20.2	20.6

**SOUTHBOUND**

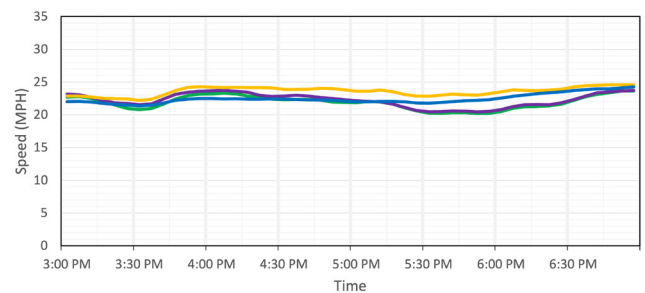
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Speed (MPH)	21.7	22.0	23.4	22.3
Travel Time (Minutes)	23.7	23.3	21.9	23.1

**ROUTE 29 | AVERAGE SPEED**

**NORTHBOUND**

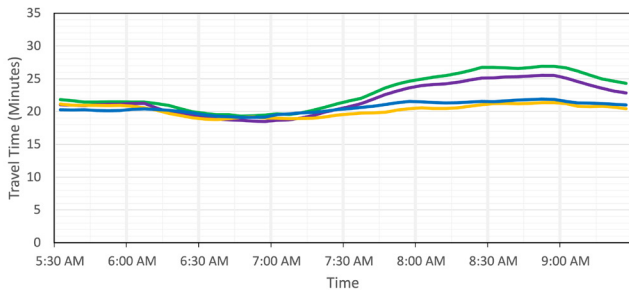


**SOUTHBOUND**

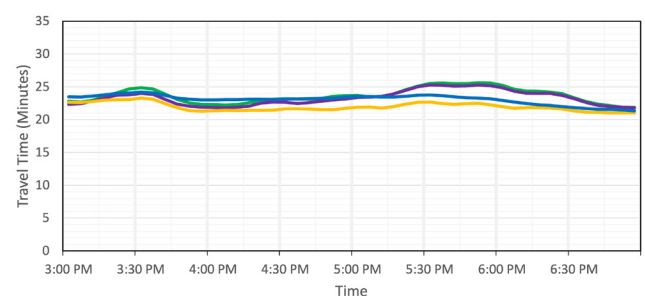


**ROUTE 29 | AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME**

**NORTHBOUND**



**SOUTHBOUND**



2018 —

2019 —

2020 —

2021 —

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

**ROUTE 7 AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME**

**EASTBOUND**

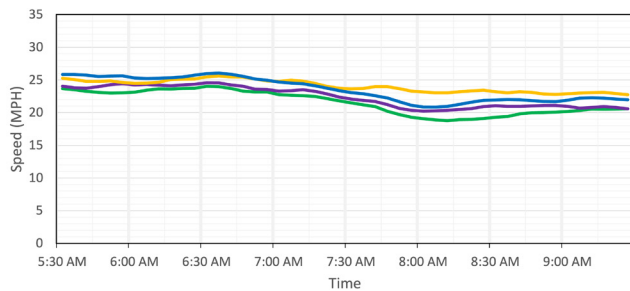
5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Speed (MPH)	23.7	24.7	26.6	26.0
Travel Time (Minutes)	11.3	10.9	10.1	10.4

**WESTBOUND**

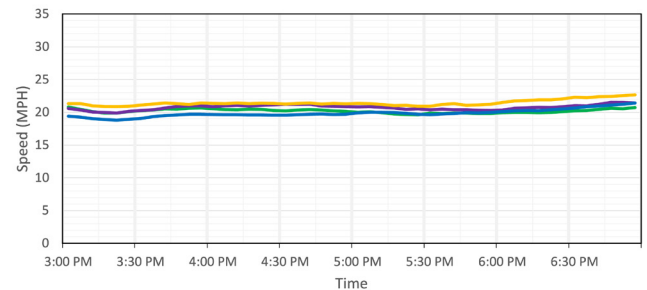
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Speed (MPH)	22.3	22.9	23.6	21.9
Travel Time (Minutes)	12.3	12.0	11.6	12.5

**ROUTE 7 | AVERAGE SPEED**

**EASTBOUND**

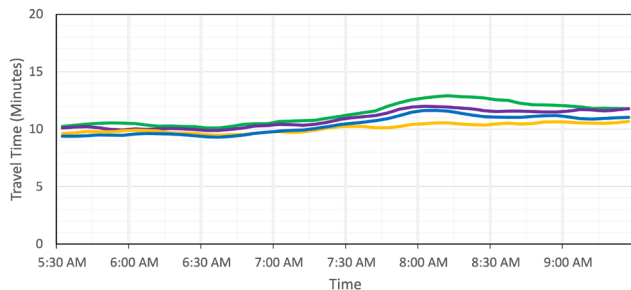


**WESTBOUND**

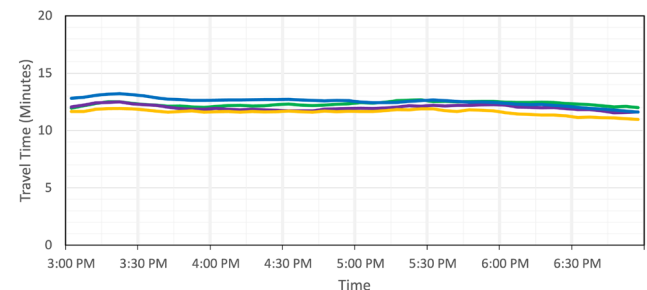


**ROUTE 7 | AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME**

**EASTBOUND**



**WESTBOUND**



2018 —

2019 —

2020 —

2021 —

## I-66 EXPRESS LANES INSIDE THE BELTWAY

### GW PARKWAY AVERAGE SPEED AND TRAVEL TIME

#### SOUTHBOUND

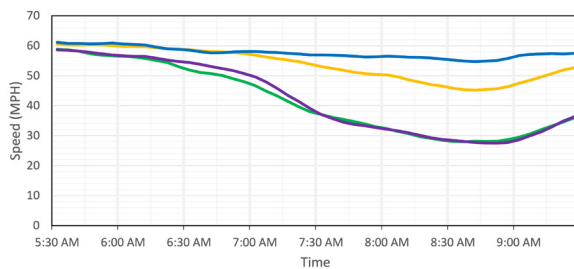
5:30 AM - 9:30 AM	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Speed (MPH)	38.6	38.9	53.1	57.6
Travel Time (Minutes)	13.4	13.3	9.8	9.0

#### NORTHBOUND

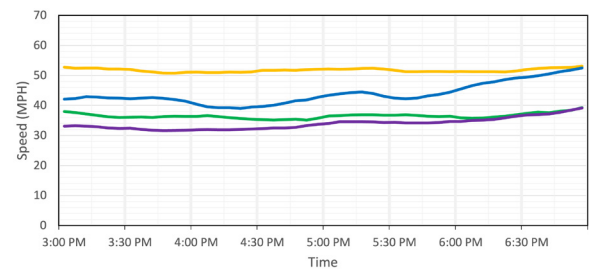
3:00 PM - 7:00 PM	2018	2019	2020	2021
Average Speed (MPH)	36.5	33.8	51.7	43.6
Travel Time (Minutes)	14.1	15.2	9.9	11.8

### GW PARKWAY | AVERAGE SPEED

#### SOUTHBOUND

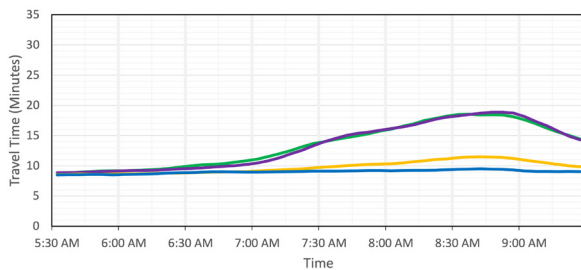


#### NORTHBOUND

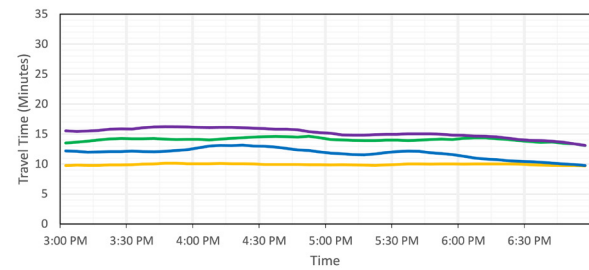


### GW PARKWAY | AVERAGE TRAVEL TIME

#### SOUTHBOUND



#### NORTHBOUND



2018 —

2019 —

2020 —

2021 —