Tampa’s State-of-the-Art Solution to LOS=F Traffic Congestion: Reversible Expressway Lanes

... and what it means for Honolulu

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The Author at the Authority’s Headquarters' in Tampa, FL
REL has sections that are 2 or 3 lanes wide

REL = Reversible Express Lanes
Sample of a 3-lane wide section

Compared to 2 lanes, 3 lanes provide 50% more capacity at a 15% additional cost, so most of Tampa’s REL is 3 lanes wide.
Some use the REL for the pleasure of uncongested traffic combined with a scenic 10-mile journey.
Express bus, and vanpool joins the REL from an on-ramp.
REL easily rises to a 3rd level to straddle an existing interchange
Ending on Meridian Ave. near Tampa’s harbor

Continuous flow right turns and multiple coordinated left turn lights quickly discharge REL volume onto downtown Tampa which has a terrific traffic plan (…see later for proof)
Smooth ending from elevated to at-grade
The access at suburb Brandon is new and nicely landscaped. Similar could be made for our Farrington Hwy. access.
REL has no trouble following curvy medians

Notice the openness – REL never feels like a “doubledoerker”
The facility is carefully monitored at a traffic control center.
Multiple cameras and electronics guarantee safety and smooth traffic flow – all technology is American
Traffic arrives to Tampa – the opposite direction is closed
The REL has facilitated growth in a depressed area of Tampa
REL on top; one of several ways to straddle existing roads
6,000 vehicles per hour can be served with a 6 ft median!
This is no doubledecker and all of it can be built from the top!

REL technology by FIGG Engineering allows the REL to be built from the top with no disruption to traffic below → see next slide
Building on top, with multiple levels below open to traffic
On REL the traffic is free-flowing. This makes Express Buses an attractive alternative!
Queues form at adjacent intersections to enter the REL.
Toll gantry from Brandon to Tampa ...

Electronics collect $1.50 toll at freeway speeds!
REL provides 3 lanes in the morning, and 3 in the afternoon for half the cost of a 6-lane facility
Drive REL and leave congestion behind 😊
Tampa traffic lights are terrific!

My light just turned green in downtown Tampa ...
... seconds later most lights ahead are green ...

(Note the brown building on the right)
... almost next to the brown building – traffic clears smoothly
The project which will solve a big part of congestion on Oahu is a 3-lane reversible HOT expressway between LCC and Keehi Lagoon coupled with the already approved Nimitz Hwy. viaduct, several underpasses and signal fixes.

But this requires
(1) knowledgeable planners
(2) gutsy engineers, and
(3) smart and honest politicians

We can solve most of Honolulu’s congestion for less than $2 billion. Two billion is not easy but first we need to have (1) + (2) + (3) !!!