

**I-25 Express Lanes**  
**Monthly Progress Report**  
**December, 2006**



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## INTRODUCTION

Overall December use (including both HOV and toll-paying vehicles) of the I-25 Express Lanes declined over previous months, with total volumes of 238,445 as compared to 270,845 in November and 260,611 in October. This was attributed largely to two significant snow storms that occurred in the month. One of these storms resulted in a 33 hour full closure of the lanes on a Thursday, the weekday that typically experiences the highest use. The Christmas holiday also contributed to lower usage.

Monthly information in this report includes:

- Vehicle Usage
- HOV vs. Express Toll Lane Vehicle counts
- Bus Travel times
- Revenues
- Incidents (that might impact operations or revenues)

### 1.0 VEHICLE USAGE BY TIME

The following is the December summary of traffic data (segregated by HOV Lane and Tolloed Express Lane). These include weekend and non-peak traffic.

December 2006 Traffic Data Summary			
	Express	HOV	Total
<b>Total Monthly Traffic</b>	52,477	181,582	238,445
<b>Maximum Daily Traffic</b>	3,413	9,151	12,197
<b>Average Weekday Traffic</b>	2,335	6,431	8,765
<b>Avg Weekday AM Peak Hour</b>	244	523	767
<b>Avg Weekday PM Peak Hour</b>	249	659	908
<b>Avg Weekday AM Peak Period *</b>	963	1,978	2,940
<b>Avg Weekday PM Peak Period **</b>	998	2,636	3,633

\* 6:00 AM – 10:00 AM

\*\* 3:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Violations rates have stabilized as drivers become more accustomed to the lane operations.

Detailed data for daily and peak period traffic are represented in tables in the Additional Information Section of this Report.

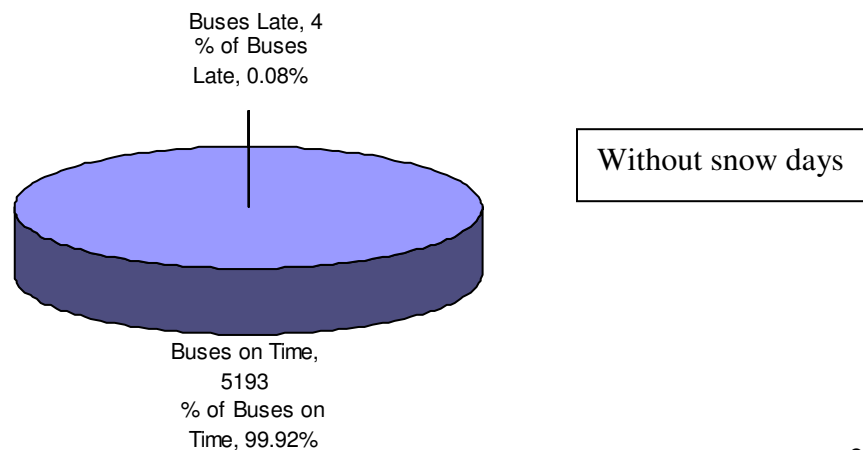
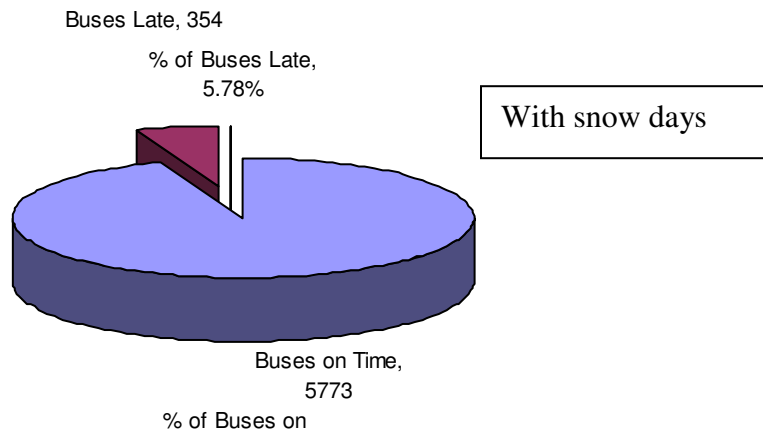
## 2.0 BUS AND HOV TRAVEL TIMES

The IGA between CDOT and RTD prescribes triggers to determine if there is any degradation to travel times for buses and carpools. These are:

- Exceeding travel time for more than one bus in an hour (provided the excess was not due to a stall, crash and closure of the lane or special event).
- Exceeding the travel time for more than one day per week for three weeks in a row.
- Predictable patterns.

There were 354 buses that did not meet their target travel times during the month of December. All but four of these delays occurred during the blizzard of December 20<sup>th</sup> and the major snow days of December 28 and 29. (RTD suspended bus service completely on December 21<sup>st</sup> and only had partial service on December 22). There were three hundred bus delays on December 20, with all of the afternoon buses experiencing delays during the brunt of the storm. Of the four non-storm related delays, the longest was 90 seconds and traffic volumes were in the normal range so the delays are not assumed to be related to congestion in the Express Lanes.

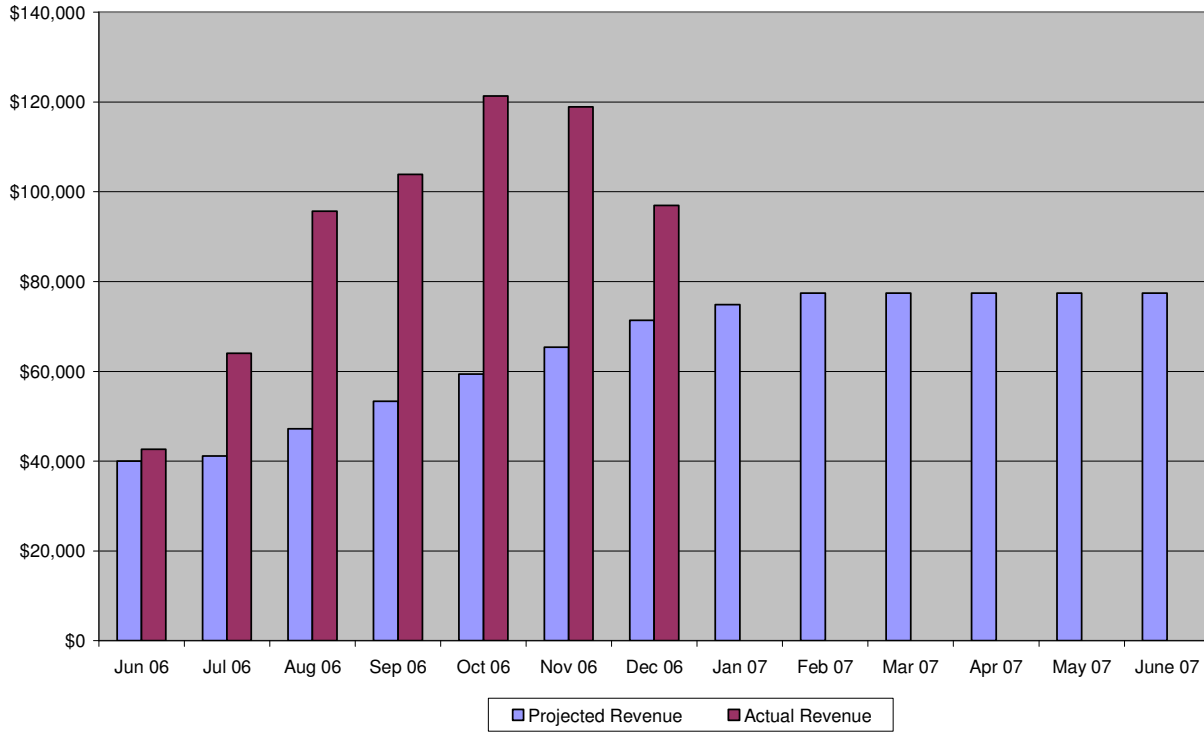
### DECEMBER 2006 BUS TRAVEL TIME PERFORMANCE



### 3.0 REVENUES

Because of less traffic in the lanes, December revenues dropped as expected from those received in November. However, even December revenues exceeded original projections. December revenues from tolls totaled \$96,907 and total revenues from tolls at the end of calendar year 2006 were approximately \$650,000. The figure below shows the projected vs. actual revenue to date. Revenues do not include any monies that have been collected for citations (tolls, fees, and fines).

**First Year Monthly Estimated Toll Revenue vs. Actual**



### 4.0 INCIDENTS

Other than the two major snow storms, there were no incidents that impacted traffic or operations in the lanes.

## 5.0 ENFORCEMENT

Month	Total Stopped	Toll Citations	HOV Citations	Hazardous Citations	Seatbelt Citations	All Other Citations	Arrests
June	320	43	59	22	5	7	1
July	152	20	26	24	7	19	1
August	127	19	18	45	11	37	1 (DUI)
September	88	7	7	26	4	7	
October	42	5	8	15	4	73	
November	56	0	0	14	7	3	
December	20	2	2	13	4	6	1 (DUI)

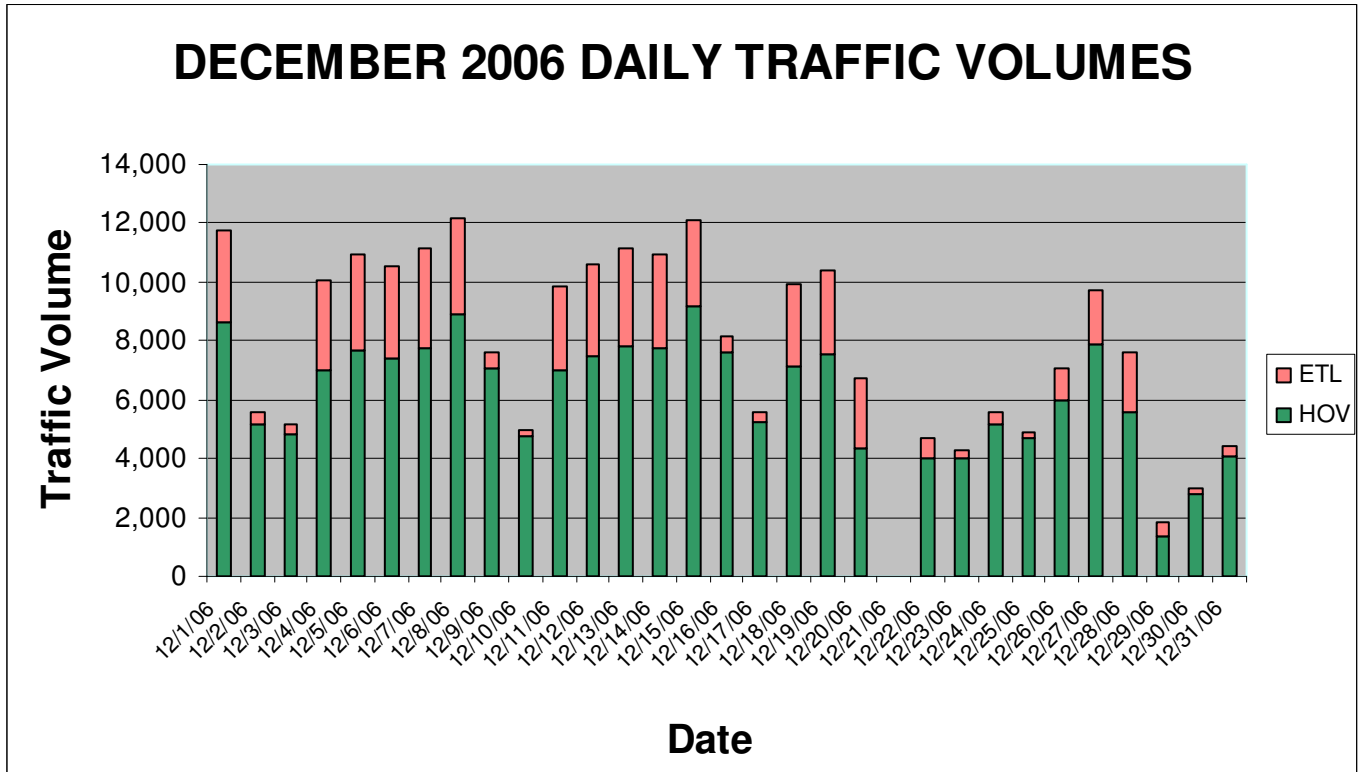
Officers did not spend as much time enforcing violators as they had in previous months. Because of the snowstorms, overtime labor had been exhausted merely trying to keep the roads cleared.

## 6.0 OPERATIONAL ISSUES

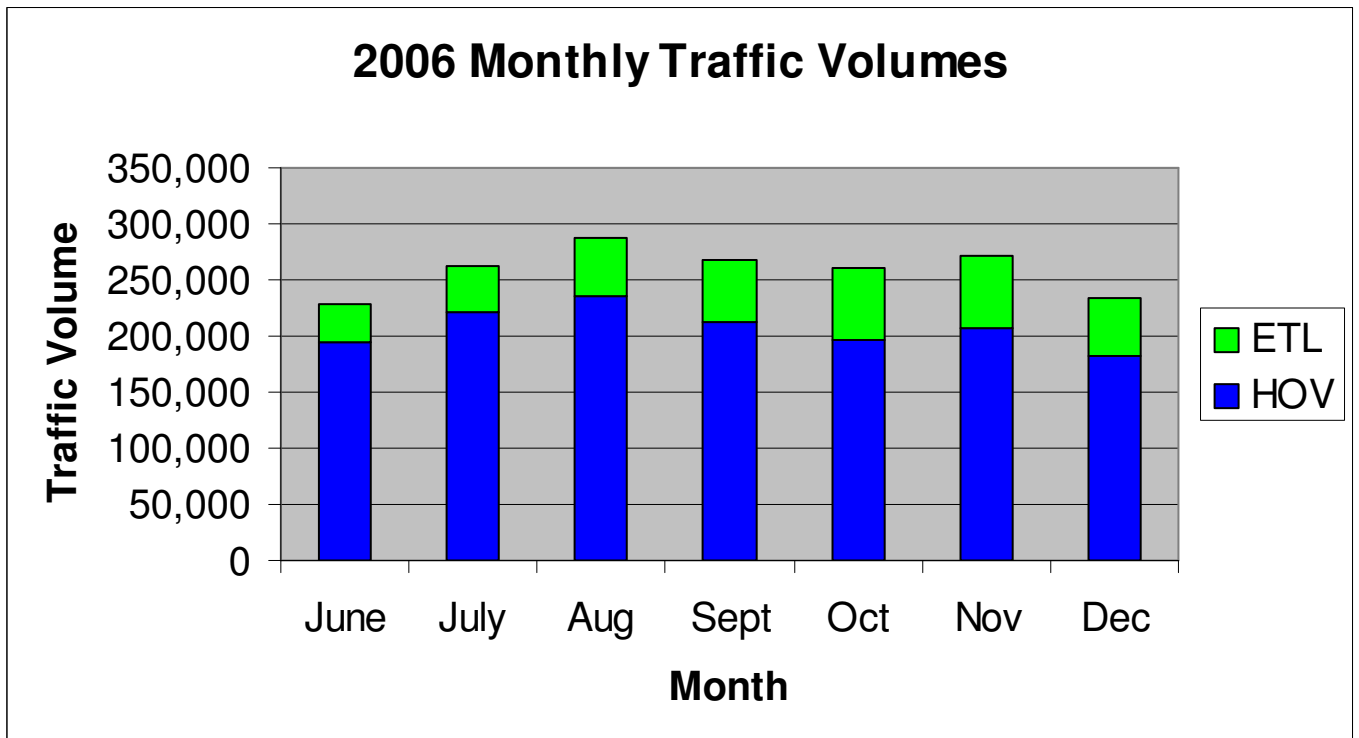
There have been reported backups at 19<sup>th</sup> Street. CDOT has been monitoring this and staff has observed that these backups occur primarily in snowy and icy pavement conditions. Traffic is being delayed about 45 to 60 seconds between 7:50 and 8:15 AM approaching 16<sup>th</sup> Street. At 19<sup>th</sup> Street, there seems to be a four or five second gap between vehicles going through the signalized intersection that creates backups. Drivers may be tentative due to potentially icy conditions. The traffic from the Express lanes at 19<sup>th</sup> is already getting 60 seconds of green time at the signal, with conflicting traffic movement getting minimal time. Most drivers are taking the Express Lanes at 60+ mph but when they get in this area the speed drops from a legal 55 to 45 then 40 and finally 25 at the sharp curve approaching 19th and Union Station. This sudden decrease in speed will naturally back up traffic and when a driver has been going 60 mph then drops to 25, the perception is that there is delay. Region 6 traffic engineers will continue to monitor this and develop some recommendations to improve operations.

## 7.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Total daily traffic volumes for December are shown on the following graph. Impacts from the storms and the holidays are evident.



The chart below summarizes monthly traffic since the lanes opened June 2, 2006



Peak period traffic are summarized below:

		Morning Rush Period					
		Total Period			Avg Per Hour		
	Weekday	Express	HOV	Total	Express	HOV	Total
1st	Friday	1,241	2,618	3,859	310	655	965
4th	Monday	1,326	2,605	3,931	332	651	983
	Tuesday	1,462	2,757	4,219	366	689	1,055
	Wednesday	1,435	2,728	4,163	331	799	1,130
	Thursday	1,315	2,461	3,776	377	839	1,216
	Friday	1,277	2,618	3,895	364	908	1,272
11th	Monday	1,324	2,607	3,931	331	652	983
	Tuesday	1,417	2,694	4,111	354	674	1,028
	Wednesday	1,468	2,769	4,237	367	692	1,059
	Thursday	1,418	2,753	4,171	355	688	1,043
	Friday	1,227	2,559	3,786	307	640	947
18th	Monday	1,162	2,435	3,597	291	609	899
	Tuesday	1,142	2,532	3,674	286	633	919
	Wednesday	1,173	1,783	2,956	293	446	739
closed	Thursday	4	4	8	1	1	2
	Friday	4	31	35	1	8	9
25th	Monday	0	2	2	0	1	1
	Tuesday	386	1,354	1,740	97	339	435
	Wednesday	662	1,951	2,613	166	488	653
	Thursday	645	1,977	2,622	161	494	656
	Friday	129	294	423	32	74	106

		Afternoon Rush Period					
		Total Period			Avg Per Hour		
	Weekday	Express	HOV	Total	Express	HOV	Total
1st	Friday	1,393	3,445	4,838	348	861	1,210
4th	Monday	1,421	3,208	4,629	355	802	1,157
	Tuesday	1,434	3,282	4,716	359	821	1,179
	Wednesday	1,322	3,197	4,519	331	799	1,130
	Thursday	1,508	3,356	4,864	377	839	1,216
	Friday	1,455	3,633	5,088	364	908	1,272
11th	Monday	1,234	2,935	4,169	309	734	1,042
	Tuesday	1,356	3,095	4,451	339	774	1,113
	Wednesday	1,516	3,258	4,774	379	815	1,194
	Thursday	1,382	3,223	4,605	346	806	1,151
	Friday	1,239	3,523	4,762	310	881	1,191
18th	Monday	1,295	3,231	4,526	324	808	1,132
	Tuesday	1,363	3,334	4,697	341	834	1,174
	Wednesday	222	542	764	56	136	191
closed	Thursday	1	1	2	0	0	1
	Friday	396	2,179	2,575	99	545	644
25th	Monday	79	1,438	1,517	20	360	379
	Tuesday	467	2,645	3,112	117	661	778
	Wednesday	881	3,355	4,236	220	839	1,059
	Thursday	786	1,942	2,728	197	486	682
	Friday	198	526	724	50	132	181



