

From:  Thompson, Nick (DOT) <nick.thompson@state.mn.us>  
To:  Hersey, Steven  
Cc:  Akhavan, Reza;  Kemp, Elizabeth  
Subject: RE: Before and After accident Data on I-35W with HOT lanes

Sent: Wed 8/17/2011 11:54 AM

Hi Steven, we have a comprehensive eval underway now on 35W and have studied our system on I-394. The issue with 35W is that it has only fully been open 1 year and we added capacity to the corridor at the same time. We are fully expecting improved safety on the corridor because of the changes we made but also recognize that it is too early to confirm this with data.

On I-394 where we have 8 miles of buffer separation and 3 miles barrier separation HOT lane we saw a year of year decrease in crashes every year from the opening of the HOT lane in 2005 and the decrease in crashes was statistically significant reduction compared to trends on other corridors.

I am also cc'ing Brian Kary who manages our HOT lanes and Freeway systems. Brian may have more current info also.

Nick Thompson  
Director- Policy, Safety & Strategic Initiatives Division  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
[nick.thompson@state.mn.us](mailto:nick.thompson@state.mn.us)  
651.366.3152 (w)  
612.325.7236 (c)

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**From:** Hersey, Steven [mailto:Steven.Hersey@dot.state.co.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2011 12:41 PM  
**To:** Thompson, Nick (DOT)  
**Cc:** Akhavan, Reza; Kemp, Elizabeth  
**Subject:** Before and After accident Data on I-35W with HOT lanes

Nick

My name is Steve Hersey and I am the CDOT Traffic Engineer for the Denver Metro Area. We are currently looking at opportunities to reconfigure some of our more congested freeways to include buffer separated HOT/HOV lanes similar to what has been done in Minnesota. One of the issues we continue to struggle with is the potential impact to safety when we introduce a managed lane with only a buffer separation from the general purpose traffic.

Have you tracked the before and after accident rates (i.e. PDO's and Injuries/fatal) on I-35W to get a sense of the impacts to safety since the project's completion? If you have any of that information and are at liberty to share it with the state of Colorado it could be helpful in our decision making efforts.

Thanks

**STEVEN J. HERSEY, P.E.**  
CDOT Region 6 Traffic and Safety Engineer