

Traffic Congestion Series Introduction

Increased traffic congestion will continually threaten mobility, the economy, environment and quality of life in our communities. Efforts to avoid and reduce traffic congestion are essential in the way we plan and develop our communities. This series includes several photos of congested highways. While viewing these photos you may choose to consider how the following keywords apply to each photo. Then, consider how these keywords may apply to similar, present and future roads and sources of traffic congestion within your community.

Congestion Management Plan Definition:

A mechanism employing growth management techniques, including traffic level-of-service requirements, standards for public transit, trip reduction programs involving transportation systems management and jobs/housing balance strategies, and capital improvement programming, for the purpose of controlling and / or reducing the cumulative regional traffic impacts of development. (*California Planning Roundtable*)

Keywords:

car pool; congestion management system (CMS); decreased air quality; delayed commutes; environmental damage; high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes; increased greenhouse gas emissions; intelligent transportation system (ITS); provide transportation choices: public transit, bike lanes, sidewalks; telecommute; threat to physical and mental health; time absorption; transit; urban design strategies: mixed-use developments, walkable communities, gridiron street pattern



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