ACTIVE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT (ATM) SYSTEM

FAQs Updated 7.14.20

Q. What are active traffic management (ATM) signs?

A. *The ATM system is a strategy to maintain safe travel by warning drivers of upcoming lane closures due to construction or crashes. ATM signs communicate with motorists in real time, informing them when to merge prior to reaching the point where an incident has closed lanes. Allowing motorists the opportunity to react well before the incidents cuts down on commute times and greatly reducing the potential for secondary crashes.*

The ATM signs are full-color LED signs that provide real-time driver information to prepare motorists for upcoming incidents that prompt lane closures or restrictions. The signs were installed as part of Project Neon, Nevada's largest road project to date, which widened and reconfigured the state's busiest stretch of freeway.

Q. How many ATM signs are there, and where are they located?

A. *There are 42 ATM signs along I-15 and U.S. 95.*

Q. Who manages the ATM system?

A. *The ATM system is a joint collaboration between the Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, Nevada Department of Transportation and Nevada Highway Patrol.*

The RTC's traffic management team operates the ATM system, while NDOT owns the equipment. Kimley-Horn, a subcontractor to NDOT, owns the software that manages the ATM system. NHP is charged with enforcement along I-15 and U.S. 95.

Q. How do you determine when the lane control signs are used?

A. *The lane control signs are activated based upon roadway conditions, traffic demand and incidents. Otherwise, they will remain dark.*

Q. What are the benefits of using an ATM system?

A. *There are a number of benefits to using an ATM system, including:*

- *Improved trip reliability and traffic movement*
- *Reduced travel time and more consistent, accurate travel time through the corridor*
- *Increased safety with the potential to reduce the number and severity of crashes*

Q. Why do speeds change along the corridor?

A. *The variable speed limit signs may change according to the current speed of traffic. This safety feature discourages motorists from weaving in and out of traffic at higher speeds, reducing the potential for crashes.*

Q. Will I see a warning before the speed changes?

A. *Yes. Over the lanes of traffic, the system may show various displays: warning speed reduction signs (black and yellow speed reduction warning), speed limit signs (black and white regulatory speed limit), and arrows and X's (lane guidance for open, closed, caution and merge conditions).*

Q. Can NHP pull us over if we are still traveling 65 mph in a zone that indicates a different speed?

A. *All black and white speed limit signs are regulatory signs and are enforceable by NHP.*

Q. What if there is a blank speed sign after the one I passed? Does that mean I can travel at 65 mph again?

A. *You should adhere to the last posted speed limit until you see another one that indicates the current speed limit.*

Q. What is the lowest speed it can drop to?

A. *35 mph*

Q. Why do I see two different speeds in the HOV lane versus the general purpose lanes?

A. *The HOV lane may be clear of incidents ahead, while there is a crash or incident in the general purpose lanes. The posted speed limits may be different depending on the traffic flow and safety of the roadways.*

Q. Are there plans to incorporate more ATM signs in the Las Vegas Valley?

A. *At this time, we are not aware of any future plans to incorporate more ATM signs.*

Q. I have a car with a smart display that shows me the speed limit of the road. Will the variable speed limit sign communicate with my smart display?

A. *At this time, no. No hardware or software is in place that broadcasts the signs to the vehicles with smart displays or reports it to a third party. However, some vehicles with smart displays are equipped to read speed limit signs and communicate it to the vehicle.*

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