Collector-Distributor Roads

FACT SHEET

What is a Collector-Distributor Road?

A collector-distributor road is a type of road that parallels and connects the main travel lanes of a highway and frontage roads or entrance ramps. Collector-distributor roads are found at intersections and, in the case of an intersection with a traffic signal, allow motorists to bypass the signal by driving under the intersecting road, much like an underpass. A collector-distributor is similar to an exit ramp, but is typically longer than an exit ramp, and has the advantage of allowing drivers to bypass traffic signals at intersections.

Benefits of a Collector-Distributor Road

In addition to allowing drivers to bypass traffic signals at intersections, collector-distributor roads also enhance safety by allowing more distance for vehicles to merge and move over to access entrance ramps to other roadways, businesses, and other destinations along high-speed roads. Collector-distributor roads also:

- Improve traffic flow by allowing vehicles to bypass traffic signals
- Improve traffic speed by increasing the distance between high-speed main lanes and lower speed frontage road traffic
- Enhance safety by providing a place for exiting traffic to wait to access cross streets, rather than backing up onto high-speed main lanes

Existing Collector-Distributor Roads

Several collector-distributor roads are already in use in the Austin area. The current collector-distributor roads can be found at:

- Southbound I-35 at MLK
- Northbound I-35 at 51st St.
- Northbound I-35 at RM 1431