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CTDOT proposing 'Flex Lane' to address I-84 congestion

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DANBURY, Conn. (WTNH) — Connecticut drivers might see less congestion on Interstate 84 if a proposed new traffic pattern comes to fruition.

Earlier this month, the Connecticut Department of Transportation announced plans to implement a new traffic pattern along I-84 in Danbury.

The proposed change would implement what's known as a "Flex Lane," which would open certain non-driveable lanes for cars for short periods which are dictated in real-time by CTDOT workers.

"So, there will be certain times of day, those peak travel times, morning and evening," CT DOT Communications Director Josh Morgan said about when the "Flex Lanes" would be in place.

This would be the first implementation of such lanes in Connecticut, but they've already been in use around the country.

Not only does the new lane have potential to alleviate highway congestion, but Morgan says it could help in-town traffic as well.

"A lot of the data shows is that people in the greater Danbury area are using I-84 as a local road, so [we're] looking at the corridor, how can we maybe open it up during those rush hour times," Morgan said.

As a college student often visiting from New Hampshire, Colby Gedney says it's an idea he can get behind after experiencing his own bumper to bumper traffic when visiting Danbury.

"Especially with all of the construction that's going on right now, it definitely would be helpful for a lot of people trying to just get off exits or get to work," Gedney said.

Designers hope to place the lanes between Exits 3 and 7 of I-84, repurposing the left breakdown lane. The project is expected to cost around \$250 million and break ground closer to 2028.

More information about the [I-84 Danbury Planning and Environment Linkages \(PEL\) Study](#), which examined the existing infrastructure and potential impacts of the project, can be found [here](#).