





# Engineering Guidelines for Roadway Interchanges

Efficient Transportation

**Decision** Making







- Definition of Interchange
- Basic Types
- Factors to Consider
- Basic & Unconventional
- Federal Process
- What Not to Do



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## What is an Interchange?



#### Grade Separated Junction Between Roadways

Separate Conflicting Movements

- Traffic Moves Freely Between Roadways on Ramps
- Traffic Too High for At-Grade Intersection
- High-Speed Arterials, Expressways, Interstates



# Interchange Considerations

- Area Type
  - Rural Low Development Density, Low R/W Cost
  - Urban Within City / CBD, High R/W Cost
- Design Speeds
  - High Speed or Low Speed
  - Difference in Speed from Mainline to Ramp
- Traffic Mix Truck Percentage
- Traffic Operations
- Sight Distance
- Bike & Pedestrian Accommodations
- Right-of-Way
- Drainage
- Right-Hand Exit/Entrance





## **Basic Types**

### **Service Interchange**

- Between Freeway and Highway
- Diamond 2 Intersections
- Stop or Signal control



### **System Interchange**

- Between Freeway and Freeway
- High Speed
- Free-Flow / Directional









# **Design Speeds**

- Interstate
- Urban Arterial
- Rural Arterial

70 mph 50 mph 60 mph

- Ramp Speed 50% 85% of Highway Speed
- Loop Ramp
- Diamond

25 – 50 mph 50 mph 60 – 70 mph

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Direct Connection Ramp

6





Queues Between Ramps (Don't Have to Clear)



- **Two Levels**
- **One Signalized** Intersection
- **Medium/High Capacity** •
- **Left Turns Balanced**

- **No Queues Between Ramps**
- **Minimal Right-of-Way**
- **U-Turn**
- **Potential Problem Viewing** Signal

9



- Left Turns Unbalanced
- Two Signals (Interconnected)
- Left Turns Developed in Advance

- Less ROW than Rural Diamond
- Queues Between Ramps must Clear







- **Two Levels**
- Free Flow
- Low Capacity
- Weaving Issues
- Expansive Right-of-Way
- Rural Areas
- No Left Turns
- Second Chance



Cloverleaf



**No Weaving - High Capacity** •

Left Turn On-Ramps to go Right



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- Two Levels
- Two Signals (Interconnected)
- No Left-Turn On-Ramps

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- **Three Levels**
- **Free Flow/High Speed**

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## Fully Directional Turbine I-75 at I-4



- Enormous
   Interchange
- Merge & Diverge
   Issues
- 15 bridges = \$\$\$\$\$



# **Unconventional Interchanges**







## Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)

- Two Levels
- Cross Road Lanes Braided
- Two 2-phase Signals (Interconnected)
- High Volume Turns
- Requires Fewer Lanes
- Lower Speed
- Against Driver Expectancy: Signing
- Bike & Pedestrian
- Fewer Conflicts than other Diamonds









http://www.dot.state.fl.us/planning/systems/sm/intjus/interchangehb/PDFs/Preface.pdf







## New or Improved Interchanges on Limited Access Facilities

Interchange Operational Analysis Report (IOAR) Interchange Modification Report (IMR)

Interchange Justification Report (IJR) System IMR (SIMR) Must Operate at Acceptable LOS and Not Degrade Mainline or Adjacent Interchanges

District Interchange Review Committee (DIRC)

FHWA

PD&E Study











FHWA – All Interstate State Transportation Secretary

**Approval Authority** 

- All non-interstate limited-access IJRs not in FIHS Plan
- **District Secretary**

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 All non-interstate limited-access in FIHS 10 Year Plan

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Failed Concepts







# Questions?

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