

# HOW



## The Purpose of the LIE HOV Lanes

The HOV lanes move more people in fewer cars. This reduces overall traffic congestion, enhances mobility, and improves the quality of Long Island's air due to fewer emissions.

The HOV lanes on the LIE, "Long Island's Lifeline," offer greater mobility and reliability for all users of the LIE – and help to better manage Long Island's traffic congestion and growing transportation needs. A safety study conducted in 2003 revealed the LIE HOV improvements had produced safety benefits for all LIE motorists. Despite increasing use by commuters, truck drivers and visitors, the occurrence of crashes significantly declined between Exit 40 (NY Route 25) in Jericho and Exit 64 (NY Route 112) in Medford based on a comparison of data for the periods before and after the LIE improvements were made.

## Benefits to Carpoolers

For thousands of motorists each day, the LIE HOV lanes represent an opportunity to save money, gas, time and stress during their daily commute to work.

- Carpooling saves on fuel costs, regular automobile servicing, and allows for tires and batteries to last longer. Sharing a daily commute with just one person can reduce fuel costs as much as 50%.
- LIE HOV users save time and enjoy a more reliable daily commute. A more dependable commute translates into more dependable arrival times at work and at after-work destinations.
- Carpoolers have less exposure to the stress of stop-and-go traffic, allowing them to arrive at their destinations much more relaxed.

## Free Commuter Assistance

Long Island Transportation Management (LITM) helps commuters form carpools and vanpools and provides information on using transit. There is no cost for LITM's ridematch services. LITM also assists companies by offering easier commuting options to their employees and offers financial assistance through government grants to qualified firms. Using the LIE HOV lanes is a great way to save money, gas, and time. For more information on HOV lanes, carpooling and vanpooling, call 877-4COMMUTE or visit [www.4COMMUTE.COM](http://www.4COMMUTE.COM).



## Park and Ride Lot Locations Suffolk County

LIE Exit 49 – Melville  
North Service Road /  
Melville  
North of LIE between Rte.  
110 & Pinelawn Rd.

LIE Exit 52 – Commack  
Commack Rd. / Dix Hills  
South of LIE

LIE Exit 53 – Brentwood  
Wicks Rd. / Brentwood  
South of LIE

LIE Exit 56 – Central Islip  
Rte. 111 / Hauppauge  
South of LIE

LIE Exit 58 – Islandia  
Old Nichols Rd. / Hauppauge  
North of LIE

LIE Exit 61 – Ronkonkoma  
Patchogue-Holbrook Rd. /  
Ronkonkoma  
North of LIE

LIE Exit 63 – Medford  
North Ocean Ave. /  
Farmingville  
North of LIE

Home Depot Shopping  
Center – Patchogue  
Sunrise Hwy. / Patchogue  
North of Sunrise Hwy.

For a printable listing of HOV Lane entrances and exits, visit [www.4commute.com](http://www.4commute.com).

# The Safe Driver's Guide To The LIE HOV Lanes

New York State Department of Transportation

Region 10, Long Island

George E. Pataki, Governor  
Thomas J. Madison, Jr., Commissioner  
Subimal Chakraborti, Regional Director

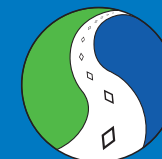


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*New York State*  
**Department of**  
*Transportation*



**LITM**  
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# The Safe Driver's Guide To The LIE HOV Lanes

Forty miles of continuous High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) travel lanes are located in both the eastbound and westbound directions on the Long Island Expressway (LIE) between Exit 33 (Community Drive) near the Nassau/Queens border and Exit 64 (NY Route 112) in Medford in Suffolk County. Throughout this corridor, the left-most travel lanes in each direction are designated as HOV lanes with diamond markings because they are reserved for use by High-Occupancy Vehicles (HOVs) during peak commuting travel periods. Entering and exiting the LIE HOV lanes are restricted to specified areas.

## What Vehicles Are Allowed to Travel in the HOV lanes?

During HOV-reserved hours, the LIE HOV lanes can only be used by the following designated vehicles:

- Private cars or passenger vans carrying two or more persons, including the driver
- Pick-up trucks with passenger plates carrying two or more persons, including the driver
- Commercial passenger vans with at least one passenger and no goods or equipment
- Buses
- Taxis with at least one passenger
- Motorcycles, even with only one rider

## The following vehicles are NOT permitted in the LIE HOV lanes at any time:

- Trucks and trailers
- Private vehicles pulling trailers
- Commercial vans designed to transport goods or equipment
- Vehicles with commercial license plates

## When are the HOV-Reserved Hours?

The LIE HOV travel lanes are reserved for use by designated vehicles on weekdays only, Monday through Friday, between 6:00 am and 10:00 am and again between 3:00 pm and 8:00 pm, including weekday holidays. **At any other time, the LIE HOV lanes are open to all passenger vehicles regardless of occupancy.** The HOV hours of operation are posted on signs along the entire length of the LIE HOV lanes.

## How are the LIE HOV lanes designated?

The LIE HOV travel lane is separated from the other three general-use travel lanes by a divider which consists of two solid white lines spaced 2-to-4 feet apart and, where space permits, hatch lines between the two solid white lines.

Entry and exit points are marked by a combination side-by-side dashed and solid white line. Vehicles are not allowed to cross the solid line on their side, and they are not allowed to cross the divider. In addition, roadway signs indicate the specific LIE HOV entry and exit points. On the HOV travel lane pavement, diamond markings provide further guidance of the HOV designation through the LIE corridor.

## What are the specific rules for using the LIE HOV lanes?

The HOV diamonds, signs, and pavement markings are traffic control devices that must be obeyed as follows:

- Only designated vehicles may drive in the LIE HOV lanes during the HOV-reserved hours
- HOV lane entry is legal only in designated areas where the *dashed* white line is closest to the vehicle
- HOV lane exit is legal only in designated areas where the *dashed* white line is closest to the vehicle
- Entry and exit of the HOV lane is **not** permitted at points where the *solid* white line is closest to the vehicle
- It is unsafe and illegal to cross the solid double white buffer lines (**divider**) **at any time**

Motorists must follow all traffic rules including the LIE HOV rules. Acting courteously toward other drivers entering or leaving the HOV travel lane is important to the safety of all LIE motorists.



## HOV Lanes on LIE Entrance Ramps

On most entrance ramps to the LIE, entering traffic is regulated by so-called ramp metering signals. On some of those ramps (for example, Exit 49, Exit 48 and others) there are specially-designated lanes for HOVs only. Those lanes are operational only during HOV reserved hours. At other times variable message signs indicate when the lanes are closed to all motorists.

## What are the penalties for improper use of the LIE HOV lanes?

Depending on the violation of the motor vehicle rules outlined here, penalties include fines and/or points on your driver's license. Signs are posted throughout the corridor alerting motorists about penalties for misuse of the LIE HOV lane. As with all traffic control devices, penalties are assessed for a violation of the rules to help assure the safety of all motorists. The LIE HOV regulations are enforced by the respective law enforcement agencies to help maintain the safety of motorists and the integrity of the HOV lanes.