

Tennessee Section ITE 2023 Annual Meeting

Continuous Flow Intersections: A Multimodal Alternative to Grade Separation



# What is a Continuous Flow Intersection (CFI)?



### What's the benefit of a CFI?



# Volume Thresholds





30% Capacity Increase

Conventional 4-lane roadway 650 vphpl x 4 lanes = 2600 vph C=150 P.M. Peak CFI 4-lane roadway 850 vphpl x 4 lanes = 3400 vph C=120 P.M. Peak

### How Does a CFI Work?

1

111

-



### Crossover

- 2-Phase, preferably running on controller at Primary Intersection
- Intuitive to Drivers (Turn Left to Go Left)
- Right Turn Typically Signalized



# Primary Intersection

- 3-Phase
- Phases 2 and 5 Run Simultaneously
- N/S Right Turns Typically Signalized as Overlap with Phases 3 and 7
- E/W Right Turns SHOULD Occur Prior to Encountering CFI Left



## Pedestrian Operations

# Signal Timing





Instance I conclosed // Chargestaffarma

## Selection Criteria





# Design Considerations

- Single Traffic Signal Controller
- Can be Fully Actuated with Overlaps
- Robust UPS
- Geometry for Crossovers, Drainage, and Passing Stalled Vehicle
- Access to Adjacent Properties
- Staged Pedestrian Crossings and Multi-use Paths
- Distance of Crossover from Primary Intersection Important

## **Design Considerations**





















王子:

Juniper Grove Crafts

in .

Bee Brilliant Childcare

Charis Supp

Residence Inn by Marriott N

Home2 Suites by Hilton Norfolk Airport

Days Inn by Wyndham Norfolk Airport

a large

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Norfolk Airport

2 1112 20

Delta Hotels by Marriott Norfolk Airport



![](_page_23_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_0.jpeg)

# Airline Highway CFI

- 2002 LADOTD and Stantec Began Discussing Possible CFI Applications
- Construction of the Airline/Siegen CFI Began in the Summer of 2005
- Opened on March 21, 2006
- Hurricane Katrina Caused Design Year Volumes to be Exceeded by Opening Day

# Airline Highway CFI

1634

**Design Volumes** 5845 1766 846 **Airline Hw** 57 Free 1638 128 428 361 Siegen Lane Sherwood Forrest 592 575 327 1022 285

432

1599

![](_page_27_Figure_3.jpeg)

# Airline Highway CFI

### The Bad News

- Actual Volumes Much Higher Than Design Volumes
  - Katrina
  - "Avoiders" Returned to
    Intersection
- Unbalanced Increases Made Timing Adjustments Challenging

### The Good News

- Operations Greatly
   Improved
  - Travel Times down 40%
  - Average Delay Less than ½ Previous
- Driving Public
   Satisfaction
- Safety

## Airline Highway CFI – 4 Months After Opening

![](_page_29_Figure_2.jpeg)

### Drivers praise makeover of once-snarled area

### BY WILL SENTELL Capitol news bureau

What used to be one of the most jammed intersections in Baton Rouge is winning rave reviews after a Mexican makeover.

The site is the intersection of Airline Highway and Siegen Lane-South Sherwood Forest Boulevard.

Drivers turning off Airline are stopped about 350 feet from the intersection, directed to a left-turn bay and, once they get a green light, cross oncoming lanes using two new travel lanes.

The new design, which opened for traffic three months ago, is all but unheard of in the United States but is common in Mexico, which was the model for the switch

### "I love it. I wish they would put them all over town."

CECIL LABORDE. operates a sports memorabilia shop on Sherwood Forest Boulevard east of the intersection

The early reviews from drivers are overwhelmingly positive.

W.L. "Buck" Corbin Jr. turns left off Airline onto Siegen Lane around 7:30 a.m. on work

Before the change? "Oh Jesus, you might sit there 15 or 20 min-

► Please see INTERSECTION, page 8A

![](_page_29_Picture_15.jpeg)

Advocate staff photo by RICHARD ALAN HANNON Traffic moves along Airline Highway at the Siegen Lane-South Sherwood Forest Boulevard interchange, revamped three months ago to improve traffic flow. The change is winning praise from drivers and nearby business owners

### INTERSECTION

Continued from page 1A

utes," Corbin said. "Now if I'm there five minutes it's unusual. "I'm telling you, it really astound ed me," he said.

same turn between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. on weekdays echoed Corbin's view 'This is so moving now," Raybon said of northbound traffic on Airline "It used to take me 10 or 15 minutes o get through.

sports memorabilia shop on Sherwood Forest Boulevard just east of the intersection, can look out his \$4.4 million, is modest compared with traffic improvements that often cost \$20 million or \$30 million. Before the new plan took effect. motorists on Airline were directed to two left-turn lanes. Highway experts said that caused traffic backups for cars and trucks in the lanes traveling through the intersections. In addi tion, the accident rate was five times

greater than the average at similar junctures. The site of the new design serves motorists headed to and from Ascension Parish and New Orleans, the

Sherwood Forest subdivision to the east and commercial establishments along Siegen to the west. The intersection featured a rash of traffic accidents initially. From March 22 through April 3,

there were seven accidents, com-pared with one during that same period the year before, according to Michael Bruce, principal engineer of ABMB Engineers, whose firm made

about \$405,000 on the project. But only seven more accidents occurred from April 3 through June 13, the same as the year before. Bruce and others contend the new turn lanes will trim wait time at the intersection to around 30 seconds compared with four minutes before

the switch. However, results of a state study to test that hypothesis are at least three

months away

Rick Newton, who operates Jay's Bar-B-Q on South Sherwood Forest, said the new design has improved traffic flow through the intersec-However, Newton emphatically

says that the work should have included a right-turn-only lane for traffic on Sherwood Forest headed for Airline to avoid backups. "From the customers that talk

about it, that is their biggest complaint "Newton said Bruce said such a lane remains a possibility.

Business operators near the intersection generally praise the change, including some who were critical earlier

Tammy Guilliams is secretary treasurer for Service Glass Works, which sits on Airline just south of the intersection. Guilliams said earlier this year

that she was concerned the new traffic patterns would kill nearby businesses by making them hard to get to, especially for cars and trucks headed north on Airline.

Now she says the addition of a service road in front of hers and other businesses has made it easier for customers to come and go, even if a few details still need attention

"The intersection flow is doing very well," Guilliams said

"I can give them thumbs-up on

front window and see that westbound traffic headed for Airline does not stack up like it used to. "I love it," Laborde said. "I wish they would put them all over town."

Metro Councilman Mike Walker whose district includes part of the area, said one possibility is making a Lacee Raybon, who makes the similar change at the intersection of

Florida and Sherwood Forest boulevards Walker said that, since the new

traffic pattern took effect March 21, comments from constituents in barber shops, drugstores and e-mails Cecil Laborde, who operates a have been enthusiastic.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive," he said. Walker said the cost of the project,

### Airline Highway CFI – Public Acceptance Survey

Question 3a: State below whether you think the improvements make TRAFFIC CONGESTION Better, Worse, or the Same...

![](_page_30_Figure_3.jpeg)

### Airline Highway CFI – Public Acceptance Survey

*Question 5. Please indicate your level of satisfaction with the current traffic conditions of the intersection.* 

![](_page_31_Figure_3.jpeg)

### Airline Highway CFI

![](_page_32_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_0.jpeg)

Matt Davis, PE, PTOE Matt.davis@stantec.com 615-499-7160

Tennessee Section ITE 2023 Annual Meeting

Continuous Flow Intersections: A Multimodal Alternative to Grade Separation

![](_page_33_Picture_4.jpeg)