

### Partial list of barriers/hurdles towards implementing bottleneck reduction program

Once the known bottleneck locations were identified, the workshop participants were asked to identify what they thought were barriers towards implementing a bottleneck reduction program in the region. This is a partial list of what was discussed.

- Technology – lack of available technology to meet needs of system (i.e. not enough market penetration of transponders, lack of V2V communication standard, etc.)
- Needs are too great – possible opening of “Pandora’s Box.” Fixing part of an intersection (e.g. right turn lane) would initiate the question as to why the entire intersection was not “fixed.” Doing so would put an inordinate strain on limited resources and forces a tough decision on agencies.
- Inertia – “Not Made Here.” Resistance from some towards doing anything new or different hinders implementation of new designs or approaches. Tough to overcome unfamiliarity and doubt (e.g. roundabouts, DDI’s, CFI’s, etc).
- Financial. Somewhat related to “Needs are too great,” this refers to the fact that existing budgets are stretched thin to maintain existing system, leaving little room for improvement. This could be counteracted somewhat by the high B/C ratio of localized bottleneck improvement or operations-type projects in general.
- Political. Localized bottleneck improvements compete with other projects for limited funding. Many of these projects lack a “ribbon-cutting” opportunity, making them less popular for elected officials to support. This can be somewhat counteracted by establishing performance measures to guide programming decisions.
- Lack of data/knowledge. It is difficult to pin down exactly where bottlenecks are occurring. Anecdotally, we believe we know where they are, but we lack a consistent, objective method for evaluating the system to identify the location and extent of bottlenecks.
  - This could be counteracted somewhat by using a three-prong approach towards data collection: using available public agency congestion data/knowledge, using existing or new sensor data to gather information from the field, and soliciting the public and elected officials (i.e. crowdsourcing) for information on where they observe bottlenecks.