

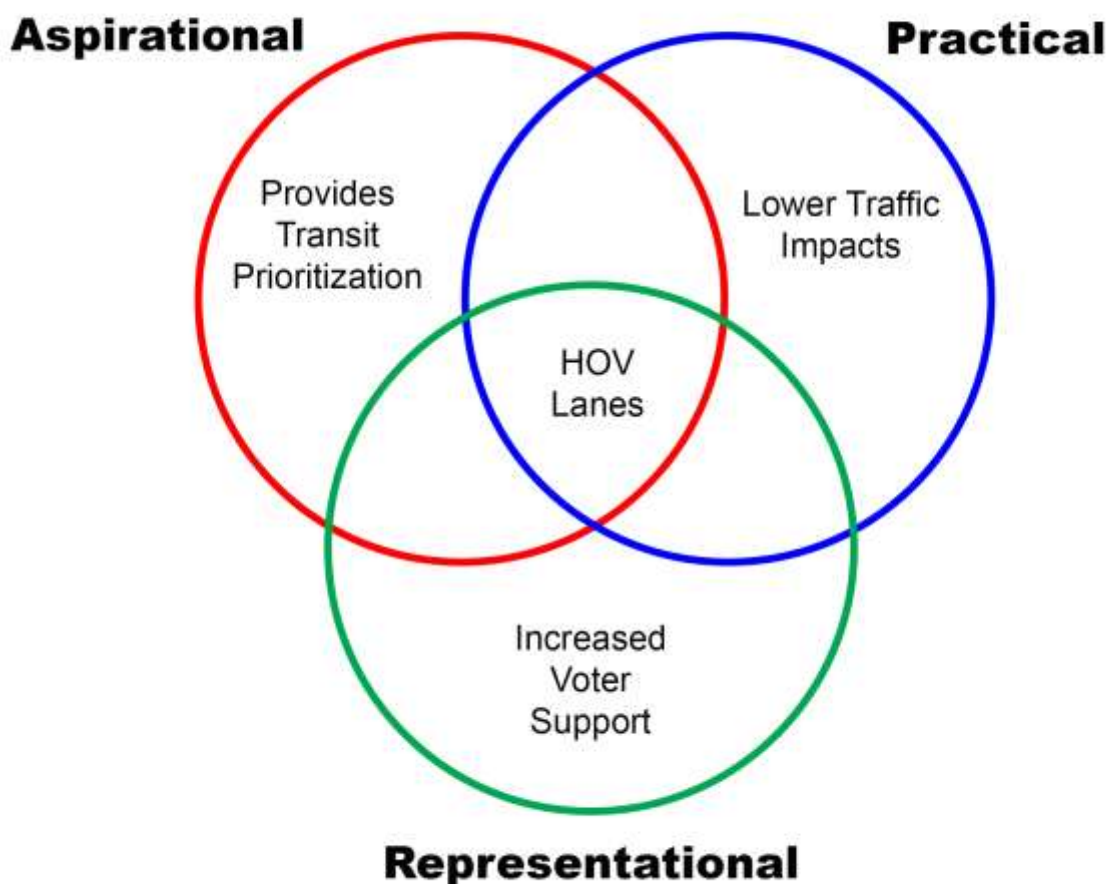
RE: HOV Lanes

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you will support the assessment of HOV lanes on a network basis for London, where they will be evaluated for future feasibility along the arteries in the next Transportation Masterplan update. Not only do they encourage carpooling as a means of reducing congestion but are another way to give greater priority to transit.

In the future, HOV lanes may be a way to resolve the conflicts that left us without a West Connection for the BRT since residents seemed to have more support for this idea at the door and the impacts on traffic would have been lower. As illustrated below, they represent a fairly good balance of the aspirational, practical and representational considerations we were making.

Political Considerations for HOV Lanes on West Leg



I think it is worth noting how predictable the criticisms are when we sacrifice one consideration for another. We are accused of lacking vision if we prioritize the practical over the aspirational and fanaticism by those who think practical concerns should outweigh the aspirations. We are “weak” and “lack the courage of our convictions” if ideals are sacrificed to public opinion and accused of arrogance or not listening if we hold to lofty plans when the public objects. If practical concerns trump citizens’ wishes, we are uncompromising or deaf to their concerns but if we let the representational outweigh the practical then we are charged with making poor decisions for “political” reasons. Our job seems to present us with unending dilemmas.

Sincerely,

Michael van Holst