



INNOVATIVE INTERCHANGES

Contraflow Left



State Route 869 (Sawgrass Expy)
at Lyons Rd, Coconut Creek, FL

What is a contraflow left?

- A grade-separated interchange where left-turn traffic on the arterial crosses opposing left-turn traffic via channelized lanes
- Left turns onto the freeway ramps in both directions are made during the same signal phase
- Interchange can be designed as an overpass or an underpass

When should a contraflow left be considered?

- At interchanges with limited right-of-way to add opposing left turn lanes
- At interchanges with heavy left-turn traffic volumes onto the freeway ramps
- At locations where there is limited roadway width for left-turn lanes between the ramp intersections and limited right-of-way to expand or to construct loops

What are the benefits of a contraflow left?

- **Improved safety:** Vehicles waiting to turn left onto the freeway are less likely to create a back-up, reducing the potential for rear-end crashes
- **Increased efficiency:** Interchange operates with three traffic signal phases rather than four phases, which reduces overall interchange delay
- **Better traffic flow:** Provides additional space for left-turn traffic waiting to enter the freeway, reducing congestion
- **Cost effective:** Because less space is required between ramps, the interchange can have a shorter bridge span, potentially reducing costs

What are innovative interchanges?

Interchange designs where traffic movements are modified to improve safety, reduce delay, and increase efficiency.

Visit www.virginiaodt.org/innovativeintersections to learn more.





Navigating a Contraflow Left

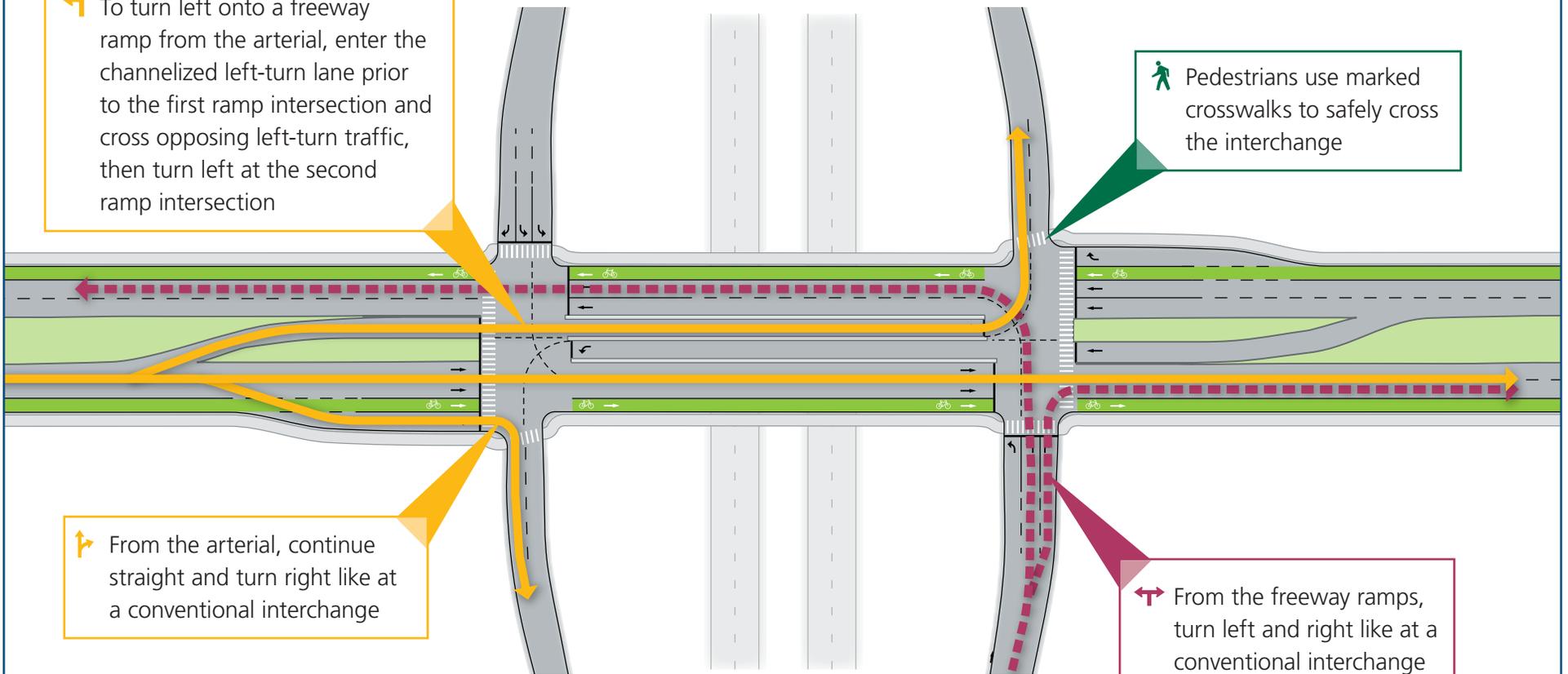
↩ To turn left onto a freeway ramp from the arterial, enter the channelized left-turn lane prior to the first ramp intersection and cross opposing left-turn traffic, then turn left at the second ramp intersection

➡ From the arterial, continue straight and turn right like at a conventional interchange

🚲 Depending on their level of comfort, cyclists may navigate the interchange using vehicle or pedestrian paths

🚶 Pedestrians use marked crosswalks to safely cross the interchange

↩➡ From the freeway ramps, turn left and right like at a conventional interchange



NOT TO SCALE

Note: For simplicity, only two directions of traffic are shown. Opposing traffic follows similar routes.