

ZIPPERMERGE

Why is our state doing this now?

As our state continues to grow, maintaining and expanding our roadways becomes even more important. With an increase in both projects and population, there will be a pressing need for safe, more efficient ways of navigating through construction zones. The zipper merge has been proven to alleviate traffic, and NMDOT is committed to improving the driving experience on all our roadways.

What are the benefits of a zipper merge?

A zipper merge is a more efficient way for traffic to proceed towards a construction zone. It reduces differences in speeds between two lanes. It also reduces the overall length of a traffic backup by as much as 40 percent. Besides reducing congestion, it also creates a sense of fairness since all lanes are moving at the same rate.

How is it done?

In order for the zipper merge to work, both lanes approaching the construction zone should be used by motorists. As you see the “lane closed ahead” sign and traffic backing up, stay in your current lane up to the point of the merge. Then take turns with other drivers to safely and smoothly ease into the remaining lane. When traffic is heavy and slow, it is much safer for motorists to remain in their current lane until the point where traffic can take turns merging in an orderly fashion.

