

Ramp Metering

Kansas City Scout is Growing

The Kansas and Missouri Departments of Transportation operate the Kansas City Scout Freeway Management System, which is designed to improve traffic flow on Kansas City freeways by:

- Locating and identifying freeway incidents and lane blockages.
- Communicating freeway information to the public using electronic message signs.
- Decreasing the number of accidents and improving emergency response and incident clearance times.

KC Scout is about to get even better by adding ramp metering. Ramp meters are special traffic signals that regulate the rate at which vehicles enter the freeway from the on-ramps. Ramp metering will help decrease congestion by **maximizing the flow** on Kansas City freeways. You will notice:

- Smoother and safer freeway entries.
- More consistent traffic flow.
- Improved freeway speeds.
- Decreased travel times.

Ramp meters will be installed at on-ramps along I-435 between Metcalf Avenue and the Three Trails Memorial Crossing (formerly the Grandview Triangle). They will enhance KC Scout's existing system of cameras, pavement sensors, and electronic message signs.

The new meters are part of a Kansas City Scout pilot program. Successful implementation of the program could lead to the installation of ramp meters on other Kansas City freeways.



I-435 ramp metering

What Ramp Metering Can Do for I-435

During your daily commute, have you experienced instances where you've been "forced" to suddenly switch lanes or hit your brakes to make room for seven or eight vehicles merging onto the freeway at once? Have you sat in stop-and-go traffic thinking an accident must be ahead only to find it's merely the result of a busy on-ramp? Ramp meters can help reduce your freeway frustration because they regulate the flow of cars and create space between those entering the freeway. This reduces sudden weaving and braking and decreases accidents. **Ramp meters allow more cars to use the freeway and drive smoothly along the road.**



Typical ramp meter

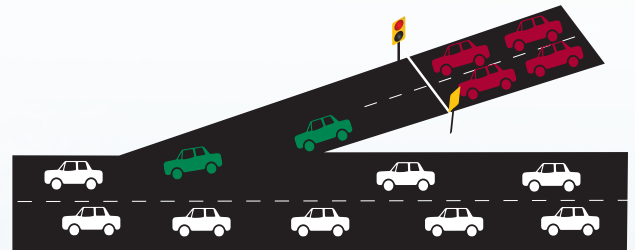
Questions/ Comments?

Visit
[www.kcscout.net/
rampmetering](http://www.kcscout.net/rampmetering)
or call
(816) 622-6500
for more information.

FAQs

How do ramp meters work?

Ramp meters work and look similar to traffic signals. Drivers must consider and obey them as they would other traffic signals. A red light means stop, a green light allows vehicles to proceed down the ramp and merge onto the freeway. The meters monitor and control traffic entering the freeway during the morning and afternoon commutes. They are designed to turn off if the number of cars waiting on the ramp grows to the point where they back up onto city streets, and they turn back on once the ramp queue is reduced to a reasonable level.



Ramp meter illustration

How long will I wait on the ramp?

About one minute or so. The meters are timed according to current freeway traffic conditions. Detectors installed in the pavement measure traffic flow and vehicle speeds. The results are used to determine the best rate at which vehicles can enter the freeway. Better traffic flow once on the road **actually reduces your overall commute time.**

How will I know if the ramp meter is turned on?

Flashing yellow lights located near the ramp entrance alert motorists that the ramp is being metered and that they should be prepared to stop. Signs and road striping also indicate where to stop and how to proceed.

Are other cities using ramp meters?

Yes, ramp meters are used in most major metropolitan areas across the country including Milwaukee, Seattle-Tacoma, Portland, Phoenix, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Denver, Chicago, and many other cities.

