

To improve safety, German experts have decided that three lanes will become the standard for large, frequently-traveled country roads to permit safe overtaking.



Based on the country's newly revised guidelines for the construction of highways, three-lane roads that alternate between two and one lane in each direction now have a new color scheme to indicate the change in traffic priority. The new green striping provides a clear demarcation of oncoming traffic and enhances recognition of the start and finish of the overtaking lane. One of the sites where the new markings have been tested is European route B178, a 42.5-kilometre Federal highway in Saxony similar to a motorway with three lanes. It is located between the towns of Weissenberg and Zittau.

A 20-km section between Zittau and Löbau was recently marked with products from Swarco's road markings division in Limburger, which included cold plastic D480 White Profile and agglomerates, and cold spray plastic KSP 120 traffic-green RAL 6024 that are both particularly durable and therefore ideal for roads with high traffic load. The application was carried out by the company's road marking contractors, HIMA and Straat1. Another section will be marked at the end of August. The special feature of this highway is the green metre-wide (3.2 feet) centre line bordered by two solid lines which may not legally be crossed. It is hoped that the new green line will reduce vehicles running off the road and dangerous overtaking manoeuvres.