

Pace officials warn: Don't try to follow buses onto I-55 shoulders next month

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Don't get any ideas if you see Pace buses using the shoulder of the Stevenson Expy. to sneak by traffic next month.

You can't follow the buses. And Pace officials said State Police will be watching to make sure you don't.

The suburban bus agency even offered to put cameras on the back of its buses to help cops catch anyone who tries, one official said.

"They haven't taken us up on that offer," Pace Deputy Executive Director Rocky Donahue said Thursday.

Pace is getting ready to start a two-year pilot program on Interstate 55. Buses will be allowed to avoid congestion on the highway by driving on the shoulder between Interstate 355 and Kedzie at certain times.

The buses will be allowed to go only 15 mph faster than expressway traffic — never more than 35 mph. They'll have to leave the shoulder if they encounter a motorist pulled over for a traffic stop or other emergency. Highway maintenance and snow removal also will keep buses off the shoulder.

The option will be available to bus drivers on Pace routes 755 and 855 between Plainfield and downtown Chicago. Drivers expect to start training on the shoulders Monday, and Pace said the Illinois State Police is planning special patrols when the program launches Nov. 14.

Source:

<http://www.suntimes.com/news/metro/8321964-418/pace-officials-warn-dont-try-to-follow-buses-onto-i-55-shoulders-next-month.html#.U3yxjMakqbE>