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PM wants study on special lanes for high occupancy vehicles

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed has proposed special lanes for high occupancy vehicles (HOVs) as an alternative to overcome the traffic problems in Klang Valley, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said.

He said the the ministry will undertake a study to see how the special HOV lane can be implemented.

Dr Mahathir made the proposal in Cabinet yesterday. He briefed ministers on the special HOV lanes following what he saw in Santiago during his visit to Chile last week.

Speaking to reporters after attending the weekly Cabinet meeting in Kuala Lumpur yesterday, Dr Ling said Dr Mahathir did not give a timeframe as to how long the study should take.

"The ministry is now looking for the roads which are suitable for such lanes.

"We cannot determine how soon these lanes can be introduced as we have to study the situation," he said.

He said, however, the the lanes would be introduced in the Klang Valley first and extended outside the city.

Single occupied vehicle (SOV) will be prohibited from using the special HOV lanes. This will encourage motorists to car pool and subsequently, reduce traffic congestion in the city.

The HOV rate is two people or more per vehicle. City Hall had early this year introduced special lanes for buses.

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