

# el Periòdic News

DEVICE BETWEEN LA COMELLA AND LA MARGINEDA ROUNDABOUTS

## Green light for the pilot test of the reversible lane in Andorra la Vella

Mobility will enable two lanes in the south direction from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday to Friday

LAURA GÓMEZ RODRÍGUEZ  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

Starting tomorrow, the Mobility Service will launch a new traffic device on the general road 1 (CG1) with the aim of decongesting the section between La Comella roundabout and the La Margineda roundabout. «For some time now we have detected a conflicting point, a point with a certain volume of delays,» explained the head of the Mobility Area, Dani Boneta.

In order to alleviate the delays in this section, it has been decided to enable a reversible lane that will operate at specific times. «In the afternoons, from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., there will be two lanes in the south direction and one in the north direction,» Boneta explained. During the morning, however, two northbound lanes will be maintained to facilitate the entry of vehicles into the central valley. This device will allow for more fluid management of the traffic of nearly 15,000 vehicles per day that travel along this road during these hours.

Initially, lane reversal will be done with light signals and cones to guide drivers. However, the intention is that, over time, the change of direction will be carried out exclusively through the light panels installed on the road. «We have panels that indicate which lanes are closed, but until now they were only used



The Head of Area of the Mobility Service, Dani Boneta, at the National Traffic Center.

### DANI BONETA

HEAD OF MOBILITY AREA

“We have panels that indicate which lanes are closed, but so far they were only used in cases of works or special situations”

“In the long run, we want to do it without cones, only with the upper panels, but some adjustments will have to be made to the signage”

in cases of construction or special situations. The idea is to use them regularly and for drivers to get used to them,» he explained.

The ultimate goal is to eliminate the cones and manage the change of direction in a completely automated way from the

control center. «In the long run, we want to do it without cones, only with the upper panels, but some adjustments will need to be made to the signage, such as painting new road markings and modifying some signs,» Boneta said.

Although the pilot test offici-

ally begins tomorrow, the Mobility Service has already experimented with lane reversal in specific periods. «A couple of years ago we started applying this device in the afternoons during the winter season departure operation and on some summer days.»

The pilot test will last approximately two weeks. «We are starting it as a pilot test for about fifteen days. We will start on Wednesday and Thursday, and then we will continue for the following two weeks to assess its operation,» explained the Mobility Service coordinator. Depending on the results, it will be decided whether the measure is consolidated permanently. ●

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## SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

# Andorra can receive 2.5 million more tourists, according to the tourist load study

Around 9.6 million visitors were welcomed during 2024

ELENA HERNÁNDEZ MOLINA  
ANDORRA LA VELLA

The tourist load capacity study (ECCT) has shown that Andorra received around 9.6 visitors during 2024, as pointed out by the Minister of Tourism and Trade, Jordi Torres, during the presentation of the report. These data have highlighted the growing pressure that the country is experiencing, especially in the winter season, as well as during the month of August last year.

In this sense, the minister highlighted that these figures represented 63% of occupancy in tourist accommodation. The document concludes that the “equivalent population” – which includes residents, hikers, seasonal workers, cross-border workers and overnight stays – reached 127,713 people in 2024, with peaks of approximately 146,900 during August, and also in some winter mont-



The Minister of Tourism, Jordi Torres, and the coordinator of the study, Jose Gismero, presenting the study of tourist carrying capacity.

hs. “It could grow by two and a half million more tourists outside the peak season,” Torres pointed out, specifying that “it is not the will to always be growing at maximum.”

This pressure is reflected in the evolution of the equivalent population, which has grown by more than 30,000 people in the last decade and is at values that could strain the social and economic fabric. The minister acknowledges that “a constant overcrowding of the territory” could lead to problems of acceptance by the public and a

saturation of services, which is why it is essential to continue improving the planning and management of tourism figures. Despite the high volume of visitors, the study highlights that the vast majority of infrastructures, such as the electricity supply network, water collection and waste treatment, have an “excellent” capacity to meet current and future demand.

On the other hand, the report recommends deseasonalizing demand and focusing on more balanced management during

times of maximum influx, especially in winter and August. According to the minister, «if we could have 9.6 million tourists spread throughout the year, much better», although he admits that the average expenditure in the ski season is higher.

The document also focuses on the reduction in the supply of tourist accommodation, which now has 39,170 active beds, down from the previous 45,000. «Many hotel establishments have closed and have been transformed into tourist housing», Torres pointed out, adding that the Omnibus Law will not allow new licenses to be granted and will promote the rehabilitation of closed hotels or, where appropriate, the construction of new 4- and 5-star establishments in parishes with less tourist pressure. However, the ECCT warns that the road network and collectors are close to the limit if the current growth trend continues. “The Government is already working to find solutions to the critical points”, Torres remarked. ●

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