CLAIMS

1. An operation system for causing a vehicle to automatically travel along a dedicated lane for vehicles, the system having

a plurality of magnetic markers arranged in the dedicated lane;

a storage part which stores, as connection point identification information, identification information of a magnetic marker corresponding to a connection point for at least either one of branching from the dedicated lane to another lane and merging from another lane to the dedicated lane; and

a setting part which sets or cancels the connection point, wherein

the storage part is configured to store, as the connection point identification information, identification information of the magnetic marker corresponding to the connection point when the connection point is set by the setting part, and erase the connection point identification information according to identification information of the magnetic marker corresponding to the connection point when the connection point is canceled by the setting part, and

the system is configured so that at least one of branching from the dedicated lane to another lane and merging from another lane to the dedicated lane is allowed at a point corresponding to the magnetic marker according to the connection point identification information stored in the storage part,

wherein

the system has

a movable fence for partitioning the dedicated lane, which can be opened and closed; and

a control part which controls opening/closing operation of the movable fence, and

the control part is configured to cause the movable fence

corresponding to the magnetic marker according to the connection point identification information stored by the storage part to be opened and cause the movable fence corresponding to the magnetic marker according to identification information to be closed when the connection point identification information according to identification information of any of the magnetic marker is erased.

2. The operation system in claim 1, wherein

the vehicle is a bus for which a stop for a user to get on or off is defined, and

the other lane includes at least a lane connecting the dedicated lane and the stop.

3. The operation system in claim 1 or 2, wherein

the other lane includes at least a general road.

4. A method of controlling an operation system for causing a vehicle to automatically travel along a dedicated lane for vehicles, the operation system having:

a plurality of magnetic markers arranged in the dedicated lane;

a storage part which stores, as connection point identification information, identification information of a magnetic marker corresponding to a connection point for at least either one of branching from the dedicated lane to another lane and merging from another lane to the dedicated lane; and

a setting part which sets or cancels the connection point, wherein

the storage part is configured to store, as the connection point identification information, identification information of the magnetic marker corresponding to the connection point when

the connection point is set by the setting part, and erase the connection point identification information according to identification information of the magnetic marker corresponding to the connection point when the connection point is canceled by the setting part, and

at least one of branching from the dedicated lane to another lane and merging from another lane to the dedicated lane is allowed at a point corresponding to the magnetic marker according to the connection point identification information stored in the storage part,

wherein

the operation system has a movable fence for partitioning the dedicated lane, which can be opened and closed, and

a control part which controls opening/closing operation of the movable fence, and

the control part is configured to cause the movable fence corresponding to the magnetic marker according to the connection point identification information stored by the storage part to be opened and cause the movable fence corresponding to the magnetic marker according to identification information to be closed when the connection point identification information according to identification information of any of the magnetic marker is erased.

5. The method of controlling the operation system in claim 4, wherein

the vehicle is a ride-sharing bus for which a stop for a user to get on or off is defined, and

the other lane includes at least a lane connecting the dedicated lane and the stop.

6. The method of controlling the operation system in claim 4

or 5, wherein

the other lane includes at least a general road.