

First Stretch of I-680 Express Lane Striping Is Finished

FREMONT, CA (September 12, 2010) – Southbound drivers on Interstate 680 will see the first stage of the new Express Lane striping, with double solid white lines and two specific exit and entry points separating the carpool lane for 8 miles from the Washington Boulevard exit in Fremont to Highway 237 in Milpitas. Construction crews finished this striping over the weekend in advance of the opening of the Express Lane at 5 a.m. on Monday September 20.

The remainder of the 14-mile Express Lane, from Highway 84 in Sunol to Washington Boulevard, will be striped overnight this week. The double solid lines with limited access points replace the familiar dotted lines with unlimited access that allowed drivers to cut in and out of the lane.

Though the new striping is in place, the lane on southbound I-680 is still a carpool-only lane this week until the Express Lane opens. No tolls are being collected this week, and solo drivers cannot enter the lane during carpool hours. When the Express Lane opens next Monday, solo drivers with a FasTrak toll tag can choose to use the lane from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. to avoid congestion in the general purpose lanes; carpools will continue to use the lane for free. All drivers using the lane can enter or exit only at the designated access points, because it is illegal to cross a double solid line.

The striping this weekend means that carpool lane drivers headed for the Mission Boulevard south (238) exit, the Scott Creek exit, or the Jacklin Road exit, should exit the carpool lane at the designated exit point just past Auto Mall Parkway. Carpool drivers headed for Highway 237 should exit the carpool lane just past Jacklin.