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## I-680 EXPRESS LANE

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METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION



# PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** October 31, 2008

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### EXPRESS LANE COMING TO SUNOL GRADE

**Fremont** – Today, a groundbreaking ceremony was held to celebrate the start of construction on a southbound Express Lane on Interstate 680, the first toll lane in the Bay Area.

"Rebuilding California and investing in our future has been one of my top priorities," Governor Schwarzenegger said. "I am pleased that as we move forward with updating our state's infrastructure needs, we are also reducing traffic congestion and commute times for millions of Californians."

The 14-mile High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane will double as a toll lane. Solo drivers will have the choice of paying a toll electronically on southbound I-680. Carpools will continue to use the lane for free.

Approximately \$128 million of the project's estimated \$230 million cost is funded by Proposition 1B, the 2006 voter-approved \$19.9 billion transportation bond. The project includes widening the roadway, installing electronic toll equipment, providing safe entrance and exit points for toll lane users and auxiliary lanes, installing electronic transportation management equipment, and repaving all the southbound lanes over the Sunol Grade from Highway 84 to Highway 237.

"The I-680 Express Lane will reduce traffic congestion along southbound I-680 during peak morning commute hours, from the Stoneridge Drive Interchange in Pleasanton to Route 237 in Milpitas," said California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Director Will Kempton.

The toll will depend on the available capacity of the express lane. This is called "dynamic pricing" and is used successfully in Southern California and elsewhere in the country. Drivers will see the price to use the express lane on an overhead electronic sign as they approach an entrance to the lane.

According to Caltrans District 4 Director Bijan Sartipi, "the public is ready for the I-680 Express Lane. Our poll of Sunol Grade commuters found 2-to-1 support for this historic step toward changing how we use the highways."

"The I-680 Express Lane Project launches a new era of congestion relief for drivers in Northern California," said Chair Mark Green of the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA). "For the first time, solo drivers will have a choice, and current carpool lane users will continue to enjoy the benefits of sharing rides."

"Using the I-680 Express Lane will be easy. Solo drivers will have the choice of remaining in mixed-flow lanes during periods of congestion or they can use the FasTrak electronic toll paying system to move into the express-carpool lane," said Dennis R. Fay, Executive Director of the ACCMA. "Tolls will be higher when there is more congestion, and lower when the lane is less crowded. Thus, all users of the lane will be assured of a fast, reliable trip."

The lane is being built in three segments; work began today on the first segment between the Mission Boulevard north and south interchanges. Segments two and three are expected to be in construction by early 2009. The express lane is scheduled to be operational in 2011.

Revenue from the express lane will be used to pay for lane operations, for public transit along the I-680 corridor, and for additional carpool or express lanes.

"The high-occupancy/toll lane on I-680 will be the first segment in a planned 800-mile regional HOT lane network," said Napa County Supervisor Bill Dodd, who serves as Chair of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA). "It will serve as an example of how to provide all Bay Area drivers with an option for free-flowing traffic and a reliable commute."

The I-680 Express Lane partners are Caltrans, the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority, the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Federal Highway Administration and the California Highway Patrol.

Today's groundbreaking event featured a "how-it-works" video, which can be seen on the project's website at [www.680expresslane.org](http://www.680expresslane.org).

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