



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Interstate 680 Sunol Northbound Express Lane Officially Opens Today *Traffic relief for one of the Bay Area's most congested freeways*

ALAMEDA COUNTY—The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and its partner, the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC), today celebrated the official opening of the Interstate 680 (I-680) Sunol Northbound Express Lane with a virtual ribbon cutting ceremony.

The new express lane on northbound I-680 is between south of Auto Mall Parkway and State Route 84 (SR-84) and will now be open to carpools with 2 or more persons, vanpools, motorcycles, and transit vehicles.

The I-680 corridor is one of the most congested corridors within the nine Bay Area counties. The express lane will improve commute and travel times by allowing solo drivers access to the lane via a toll payment system, resulting in reduced traffic congestion.

"We're excited to help commuters and other motorists arrive at their destinations quickly and efficiently while having choices as to how they travel," said Caltrans Bay Area District 4 Director Tony Tavares. "Reducing the time spent in traffic reduces the amount of carbon released into the atmosphere."

Today, the northbound express lane is officially open to motorists; however, improvements to the southbound express lane are still in progress. Upon completion



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In spring 2021, the improvements will result in a near-continuous express lanes system on I-680 from south of the SR-84 interchange to north of the State Route 262 (SR-262) interchange in Alameda County. Tolling operations in both directions will begin in spring 2021.

Modifications to this corridor are expected to improve overall freeway operations and eliminate known congestion at specific locations, such as SR-262 (Mission Boulevard) and the Auto Mall Parkway exits.

"I cannot stress enough the importance of this regional transportation project," says the I-680 Sunol Smart Carpool Lane Joint Powers Authority Chair Lily Mei, Mayor of Fremont. "Millions of drivers travel along this corridor, and now I can happily say that they will be able to reach their destinations more quickly and more reliably."

The project will reduce congestion, accommodate current and future traffic increases and provide state-of-the-art technology that allows for improved enforcement, reliability and improved travel speeds in the general-purpose lanes. It also adds several auxiliary lanes to facilitate the smooth and safe transition of traffic between local streets and the highway system between interchanges.

The I-680 Sunol Southbound Express Lane from SR-84 to State Route 237 (Calaveras Road) is temporarily restricted to carpool only to accommodate construction work—paving, striping, electrical system upgrades and other improvements—that will synchronize the express lanes.

Caltrans and Alameda CTC would like to thank the public for their patience as we work to improve transportation systems within Alameda County's highways, tunnels and bridges. Work on this project is expected to conclude in spring 2021.

To view the virtual ribbon cutting ceremony that took place on Thursday, October 29, 2020, visit: <https://vimeo.com/473288651>

For more information on the project, visit: <https://www.alamedactc.org/programs-projects/expresslanes/i-680-sunol-express-lanes-project/>.



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