

FACT SHEET: **Express Lanes**

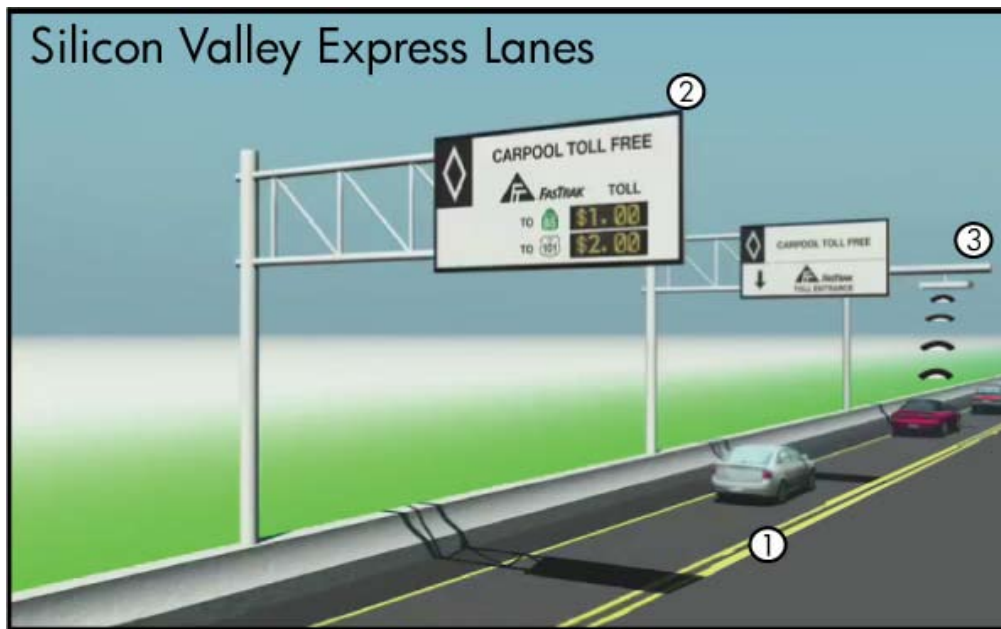
State Route 237/I-880 Express Lanes Connectors Project

Overview

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is proposing to convert existing carpool to carpool (HOV – high occupancy vehicle) direct connector ramps at the State Route (SR) 237/Interstate 880 interchange to Express Connectors. Carpools with two or more occupants, motorcycles, transit buses and eligible hybrids will continue to use the Express Connectors free of charge. Solo drivers will be given the option of paying a toll to use the Express Lanes Connectors during commute hours.

SR 237/I-880 Express Lanes tolls will be collected electronically using the proven FasTrak technology already in use on the Bay Area bridges. Tolls for solo drivers will vary based on the level of congestion and will be adjusted to maintain a free-flowing ride on the Express Lanes.

The SR 237/I-880 Express Connectors Project is the first project in the Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program which also includes the conversion of existing carpool lanes on SR 85 and U.S. 101 into Express Lanes.



- ① Express Lanes are separated from regular lanes by a double yellow line.
- ② Electronic signs display the current toll for solo drivers with FasTrak. Toll will vary based on the level of congestion in the Express Lanes and will be adjusted to maintain free-flowing traffic.
- ③ An overhead antenna reads motorist's FasTrak transponder and the correct toll is automatically deducted from prepaid FasTrak account: No Toll Booths, No Slowing.

(over)

Project Funding Partners



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION



**A new choice
for a better
commute!**

SR 237/I-880 Express Lanes



Project Benefits

- **Increase efficiency of existing roadway:** Existing carpool lane connectors have the available capacity to accommodate more vehicles. More efficient use of existing roadways is accomplished by encouraging transit and carpools, and allowing solo drivers to pay a fee to access the lanes.
- **Fast, reliable travel:** Through the use of dynamic pricing, VTA can manage the amount of traffic in the express lanes and maintain free-flowing speeds even when the general purpose lanes are congested. Motorists who choose to use the express lanes will benefit from reliable travel times.
- **Better for the environment:** Idling cars are a significant source of air pollution. By managing congestion, we can conserve fuel, reduce air pollution and improve our environment.
- **Revenue reinvested in the corridor:** Revenue from tolls would maintain the facility; enhance transit and provide enforcement by the California Highway Patrol.

Schedule

October 2009:	Complete Final Design
January 2010:	Begin Construction
September 2010:	Open Express Lanes Service

How to Reach Us

If you have any questions about the VTA Express Lanes Project, please call VTA's Community Outreach Department at (408) 321-7575, (TTY) for the hearing-impaired (408) 321-2330. You may also visit us on the web at www.vta.org, or e-mail us at community.outreach@vta.org.

VTA Mission: VTA provides sustainable, accessible, community-focused transportation options that are innovative, environmentally responsible, and promote the vitality of our region.