

# FACT SHEET: **Express Lanes**

## State Route 85 and U.S. 101 Express Lanes Project

### Overview

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) is proposing to convert existing high occupancy vehicle (HOV, or carpool) lanes on SR 85 and U.S. 101 to high-performance express lanes or dedicated toll lanes, which have been proven extremely popular in other areas of the country. Solo drivers will be given the option of paying a toll to use the new VTA Express Lanes. Carpools with two or more occupants, motorcycles, transit buses and eligible hybrids will continue to use the express lanes free of charge.

VTA's Express Lanes (sometimes referred to as High Occupancy Toll or "HOT" Lanes) will have no tollbooths, and fees will be collected electronically using the proven FasTrak electronic toll collection technology. Tolls for solo drivers will vary based on the level of congestion, and will be adjusted to maintain a minimum speed of 55 miles per hour in the express lanes. Enforcement will be provided by the California Highway Patrol using visual means and electronic devices.

### Project Benefits

- **Increase efficiency of existing roadway:** Carpool lanes are underutilized and have the capacity to accommodate more vehicles. By encouraging transit and carpools, and allowing solo drivers to pay a fee to access the lanes, we can make more efficient use of existing roadways.
- **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 can count on 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:** Tolls collected will be used to operate the lanes and for other transportation improvements in the SR 85 and U.S. 101 corridors including transit.

### Revenue

Assembly Bill 2032 directs that revenue from express lanes operations be reinvested in projects and services that provide traffic congestion relief in the express lanes corridor. This will include operation and maintenance of the express lanes and expanding public transit service within the corridor.

### Schedule

2009	Final Design (pending Board Approval)
2012	Begin Service: SR 85
2013-2015	Begin Service: U.S. 101

### 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](http://www.vta.org), or e-mail us at [community.outreach@vta.org](mailto:community.outreach@vta.org).



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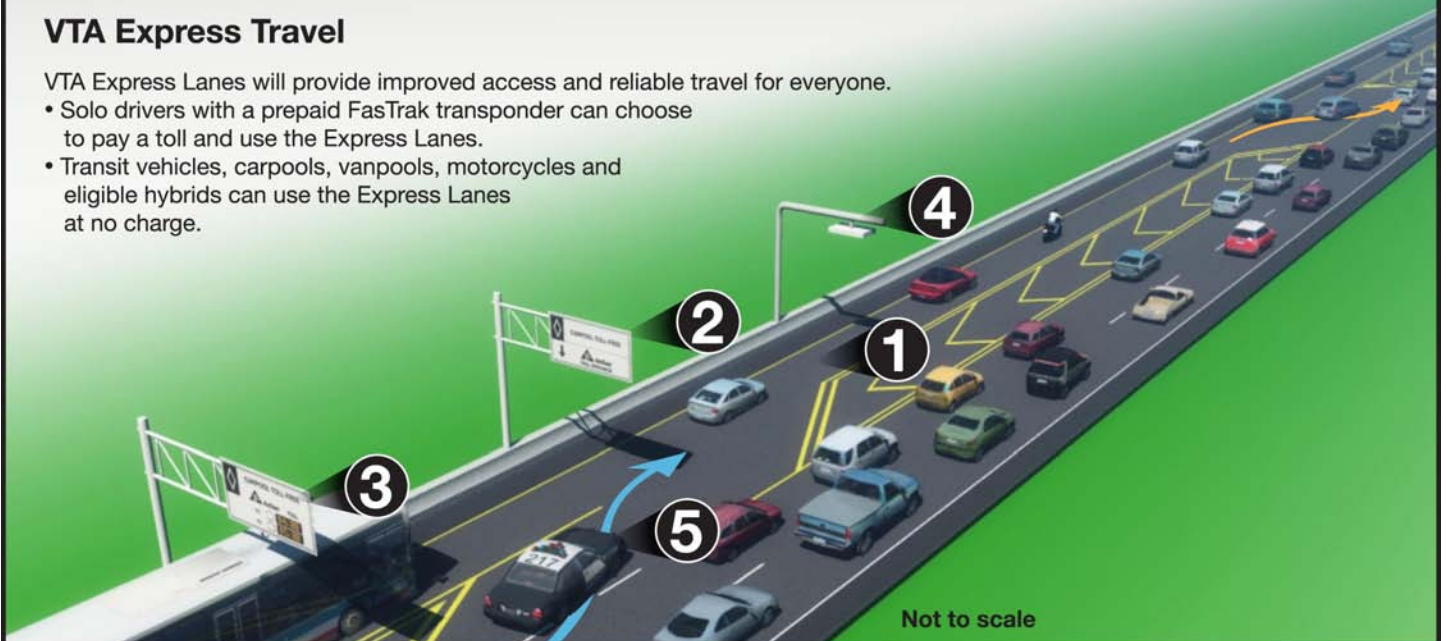
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## VTA Express Travel

VTA Express Lanes will provide improved access and reliable travel for everyone.

- Solo drivers with a prepaid FasTrak transponder can choose to pay a toll and use the Express Lanes.
- Transit vehicles, carpools, vanpools, motorcycles and eligible hybrids can use the Express Lanes at no charge.



1. Express Lanes will operate 24/7 and are separated from regular lanes by a double yellow line.
2. Signs and lane striping alert you to access points for safe merging.
3. 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 a minimum speed of 55 mph.

4. For solo drivers who choose to use the Express Lanes, an overhead antenna reads your FasTrak transponder and the correct toll is automatically deducted from your prepaid FasTrak account: No toll booths, no slowing.
5. Express Lanes' rules and use are enforced by the California Highway Patrol using visual and electronic means.