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## ***Route 85/U.S. 101 (South) Interchange Project***

### **Overview**

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In South San Jose, this project constructs high occupancy vehicle (HOV) direct connector ramps from northbound U.S. 101 to northbound Route 85 and from southbound Route 85 to southbound U.S. 101. In addition, this project constructs a mixed-flow connector ramp from southbound U.S. 101 to northbound Route 85.

To coordinate design and construction with the adjacent U.S. 101 Widening Project, the widening of U.S. 101 between Metcalf Road and Bernal Road was included in the Route 85/U.S. 101 (South) Interchange Project.

### **Objective**

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To improve traffic flow in this area by providing direct access between Route 85 and U.S. 101, and to alleviate congestion on U.S. 101, between Metcalf Road and Bernal Road, by expanding the highway to eight lanes.

### **Project Features**

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An HOV direct connector ramp enables high occupancy vehicles (cars with at least two occupants, shuttles, and buses) to move directly from one freeway HOV lane to another, without leaving the commuter lane to exit the freeway only to merge back into the HOV lane on the next freeway. HOV direct connectors are structures that provide uninterrupted HOV access between freeways.

Traffic studies indicated that the direct HOV connector ramps from northbound U.S. 101 to northbound Route 85 and from southbound Route 85 to southbound U.S. 101 would actually be more effective in reducing traffic congestion in this area, and would promote carpooling in this corridor. Studies also indicated a connector from southbound U.S. 101 to northbound Route 85 would be beneficial for traffic currently using local streets for commute purposes.

### **Operations**

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Caltrans operates and maintains the new highway interchanges.

The use of HOV direct connector ramps are restricted during commute hours (commonly weekdays between 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.) to vehicles carrying two or more occupants.

### **Capital Cost/ Project Funding**

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\$68.4 million: \$43.1 million in 1996 Measure B local sales tax funding, \$25 million from the State Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) funding, \$0.1 million from the City of San Jose and \$0.2 million from State Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) grant funds.

REV 85-101S 7/17/06-F



Measure B  
Transportation Improvement Program  
County of Santa Clara



SANTA CLARA  
Valley Transportation Authority



## Project Schedule

Construction started: March 2002

Northbound U.S. 101 to northbound Route 85 HOV direct connector ramp and southbound U.S. 101 to northbound Route 85 connector ramp completed: September 2004

Southbound Route 85 to southbound U.S. 101 HOV direct connector ramp completed: October 2004

### Highway Landscaping Project

Construction started: Early 2005

Project complete: Mid 2006

Three year planting establishment through mid 2009

## How to Reach Us

For more information on this project, please contact VTA Community Outreach (408) 321-7575, TDD for the hearing impaired (408) 321-2330. You may also visit us on the web at [www.vta.org](http://www.vta.org), or email us at [community.outreach@vta.org](mailto:community.outreach@vta.org).

For information regarding existing light rail and bus transit service, please contact VTA Customer Service (408) 321-2300, TDD for the hearing impaired (408) 321-2330, or visit us on the web at [www.vta.org](http://www.vta.org).

