



# FACT SHEET: **Express Lanes**

## Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's (VTA) Silicon Valley Express Lanes Phase 3 (US 101/SR 85) Express Lanes Project

### Overview

The Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) Silicon Valley Express Lanes Program deploys express lanes throughout Santa Clara County including the initial implementations on State Route (SR) 237 and US 101/SR 85 interchange. VTA is implementing the program in phases based on funding availability. The first four phases convert existing carpool lanes to express lanes, while future phases may include both conversion of existing carpool lanes to express lanes and the addition of new express lane (including a second lane in certain instances) as needed. Phase 1 implemented express lanes on SR 237 by converting existing carpool lanes through the I-880/SR 237 interchange. Phase 2 will complete the conversion of existing carpool lanes to express lanes on SR 237 between North First Street and Mathilda Avenue. Phases 3 and 4 will implement the first express lanes through the two US 101/SR 85 interchanges in Mountain View and south San Jose. Phase 5 will continue the conversion of the existing carpool lane to an express lane on US 101 and add a second express lane from Fair Oaks Avenue to I-880 in San Jose.

### Express Lanes Benefits

- Results in more efficient use of existing roadway.
- Provides a new, reliable travel option.
- Provides a new revenue stream for transportation improvements, including public transit.

### Project Features

The Phase 3 project on US 101 and SR 85 will:

- 1) Convert the existing single carpool lanes to express lanes in the following locations:
  - a. US 101 from near SR 237 to SR 85 in Mountain View.
  - b. SR 85 from SR 237/Grant Road to the US 101/SR 85 interchange in Mountain View including the existing US 101/SR 85 carpool lane-to-carpool lane direct connector ramps.
- 2) Convert existing double carpool lanes to double express lanes on US 101 from the US 101/SR 85 interchange in Mountain View to the San Mateo County line in Palo Alto.

The improvements include the following work elements:

- Re-striping of the existing lanes;
- Installation of express lane signs and sign poles along the corridor;
- Installation of electronic toll rate signs, toll readers, and other tolling equipment;
- Installation of a video enforcement system, closed circuit cameras, and other equipment;
- Construction of California Highway Patrol (CHP) enforcement areas;
- Reconstruction of concrete barriers and metal guard railings;
- Installation of communication and electrical services for the tolling system;
- Installation of lighting at various locations.

The improvements will not require construction of new lanes of traffic.

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## Operations

Upon completion, VTA will operate, manage and maintain the express lanes.

## Capital Costs/Project Funding

The project is estimated at \$56.3 million and is funded by a combination of local funding, 2018 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and Senate Bill (SB) 1 (Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017) through the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program.

## Schedule

Please refer to [vta.org/expresslanes](http://vta.org/expresslanes) for the project schedule.

## How to Reach Us

If you have questions about the VTA Express Lanes Project, please contact VTA's Community Outreach Department at (408) 321-7575, (TTY) for the hearing-impaired at (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).

**1 Lane Separation** – Express lanes will be separated from regular lanes by a double white lined buffer or dashed white stripe.

**2** All drivers must have a FasTrak tag to drive in the express lane during express lane hours of operation.

**3** Carpools, vanpools and other toll-exempt vehicles may drive in express lanes for free. Signs will show requirement for toll-exempt drivers.

**4 Electronic Toll Information** – Electronic signs will display the current toll. Tolls will vary based on the level of congestion in the express lanes and will be adjusted to maintain the flow of traffic.

**5 FasTrak Toll Collection** – An overhead antenna will read FasTrak transponders and the correct toll will be automatically deducted from prepaid FasTrak accounts. In addition, a **Violation Enforcement System (VES)** camera will capture a license plate image of the user's vehicle.

