



ALAMEDA COUNTY CONGESTION MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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For Immediate Release

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Public's First Look at Bay Area's First Toll Lane

Solo Drivers Will Have Option of Paying to Use I-680 Carpool Lane

FREMONT, California – Plans for the Interstate 680 “Smart Carpool Lane” Project will be unveiled for residents and commuters at a public meeting on Wednesday, October 5, at Mission San Jose Elementary School from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

The project, currently in design stage, will convert the carpool lane on a 14-mile stretch of southbound I-680 to a “smart” carpool lane. The project will allow solo drivers to use the lane if they pay a toll electronically. The toll will vary depending on available capacity of the Smart Carpool lane. Drivers will see the current toll displayed on an overhead electronic sign and decide on-the-spot whether to enter the lane. All tolls will be collected electronically through drivers’ FasTrak accounts – there will be no toll gates.

Details of the project are not finalized. The Agency is seeking input from drivers and other interested parties so the project will reflect the public’s needs and desires. This will be the first toll lane in the Bay Area; regional transportation planners anticipate Smart Carpool lanes throughout the Bay Area over the next 25 years.

The October 5 meeting to introduce the I-680 Smart Lane will have an “open house” format. Visitors will go from station to station to learn how electronic toll collection and enforcement will work, how trips will be priced, how the roadway will be affected, likely construction schedule, and other details. Afterwards, attendees can answer a brief questionnaire that will provide Agency staff with valuable feedback.

In addition, the meeting’s displays, material, and feedback form will be available online in a “virtual open house” at www.xxxxx beginning October xx?? for those unable to attend the public meeting.

“We look forward to showing people what’s ahead, and we look forward to hearing people’s ideas,” said Jean Hart, deputy director of the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency and director of the Smart Carpool Lane project. “We want to make sure we listen to all points of view about this historic step in highway usage.”

The meeting will be at the cafeteria of Mission San Jose Elementary School, 43545 Bryant Street, Fremont, CA 94539. The school is off Mission Boulevard less than a mile from the Mission Boulevard Exit from I-680.

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