



## New Southbound I-680 Lane to Open Ahead of Schedule!

Since breaking ground in Fall 2018 and adopting an accelerated and ambitious project schedule earlier this year, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA) and project partners are pleased to announce the opening of new lane capacity to drivers on southbound I-680 (SB I-680).

Starting August 24th, a new High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) 2+ lane will be open on SB I-680 between Treat Blvd. and Rudgear Rd. from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday – Friday. During these times, only 2+ person carpools and eligible clean air vehicles can use the far-left lane from Marina Vista Ave. to Rudgear Rd.

The existing express lane between Rudgear Rd. and Alcosta Blvd. will continue to operate with current toll policies.

## What to Expect:

### Lane Striping:

- In mid-August, SB I-680 lane striping work will take place from Marina Vista Ave. to Rudgear Rd.
- Lane closures will be in effect during this time, mostly between the hours of 8 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- As work continues, make sure to watch for new on-site signage and to slow for the cone zone.

## Project Map



## Buffers:

Starting August 24th, the HOV-2+ lane will be buffered from State Route 242 to Treat Blvd. and from Rudgear Rd. to Stone Valley Rd. Buffers are double-white lines between the far-left lane and the next general-purpose lane that improve traffic flow and safety by limiting merges between lanes in congested areas.

- Buffers are not legal to cross at any time of day.
- Median barrier signs explain where to exit the far-left lane to access highway exits.



## Signs (FasTrak):

In preparation for the start of tolling in early 2021, FasTrak signs are in place on the southbound HOV-2+ lane from Marina Vista Ave. to Rudgear Rd. Before tolling begins, many of the signs will indicate that toll testing is happening. FasTrak is not required during toll testing.

- When tolling begins in early 2021, use of express lanes will require a FasTrak Flex toll tag.
- FasTrak is still required for vehicles using the express lanes on southbound I-680 from Rudgear Rd. to Alcosta Blvd. or northbound I-680 from Alcosta Blvd. to Livorna Rd.
- Solo drivers can use a standard FasTrak toll tag or a FasTrak Flex toll tag set in the 1 position, while carpoolers must use a FasTrak Flex toll tag set in the 2 or 3+ position.

## Clean Air Vehicles

Special rules and tolls will be in effect for Clean Air Vehicles (CAVs) starting in late September. For more information about CAV rules on Bay Area Express Lanes visit [expreslanes.511.org](http://expreslanes.511.org) or [BayAreaFastrak.org](http://BayAreaFastrak.org).



## Tips to Carpool Safely

- Limit one passenger per carpool (or one passenger per row of seats) and sit diagonally from each other for maximum distancing.
- Find a consistent carpool partner to limit the number of people with whom you interact.
- Wear a mask and request your carpool partner wear one as well.
- If possible, keep the windows open when traveling to increase airflow.
- For more carpool tips, visit [carpool.511.org](http://carpool.511.org).



The express lane provides travel choices for the motoring public, improving mobility and freeway operations. The SB I-680 Express Lane Project widened SB I-680 from North Main St. in Walnut Creek to just south of Rudgear Rd. in Walnut Creek to accommodate an HOV lane. This section, as well as the southbound HOV lane from Marina Vista Ave. in Martinez to North Main St. in Walnut Creek will begin tolling operations in early 2021 and become part of the Bay Area Express Lane network.