

## **Officials Gather for Opening of 405 Freeway Carpool Lane**

(Feb. 22, 2002) Gov. Gray Davis, state, local and MTA officials gathered at the Sherman Oaks Galleria, Friday, to mark the official opening of a \$22.7 million San Diego (405) Freeway carpool lane through the Sepulveda Pass.

Board members Zev Yaroslavsky, Frank Roberts, Alison Yoh and Pam O'Connor were joined by CEO Roger Snoble and Chief of Staff Maria Guerra to represent the MTA.

Opened to the public Jan. 8, the carpool lane saves drivers about 15 minutes a trip on one of the slowest stretches of area freeways. During morning and afternoon commutes, traffic averages between 30 mph and 50 mph between the Ventura Freeway interchange and Waterford Street near Westwood.

About 90 percent of the carpool lane's funding comes from local sales taxes and is provided through the MTA. Plans are to add another 352 miles of high-occupancy vehicle lanes to the existing 396 miles already in operation.

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