

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Opens New Rt. 14 HOV Lanes

By ALISHA GOMEZ

(Aug. 7, 2002) A 27-mile stretch of carpool lanes on State Route 14 was officially opened, last Friday, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony in Lancaster.

Lancaster Mayor Frank Roberts, MTA Board second vice-chair, cut the ribbon to open the new carpool lane along with Caltrans Chief Deputy Director Tony Harris, Senator Pete Knight of Palmdale, CEO Roger Snoble and Assemblyman George Runner of Lancaster.



Lancaster Mayor Frank Roberts, MTA Board second vice-chair, (third from right) helps cut the ribbon to open the new carpool lane along with Caltrans Chief Deputy Director Tony Harris, Senator Pete Knight of Palmdale, CEO Roger Snoble and Assemblyman George Runner of Lancaster.

"These lanes are a great alternative for commuters and we're going to see a major improvement as they become more functional," Roberts said at the ceremony. "We are still commuting about 60,000 people from the Antelope Valley down to the Southland. The next project will have the HOV lanes go all the way to Antelope Valley."

With the completion of the additional 27 miles, the carpool lanes now reach from the I-5 junction with State Route 14 all the way to Pearblossom Highway in Palmdale. They will be open for mixed-use traffic during off-peak hours.

Helping those who rideshare

"We think taxpayers deserve to use the lanes they paid for," said Runner. "At the same time, we are trying to help those who rideshare and use those lanes during the high-peak times."

State Route 14 is the only freeway in Southern California where all drivers can use the HOV lanes throughout the majority of the day, Runner said.

"The people who have worked on this project have worked very hard, and will continue to do so in order to maintain and operate it," Snoble said. "This is a great facility and it is going to do a lot of good."

"You save a minute for every mile you travel on an HOV lane," Caltrans' Harris said. "We're building a 55-mile network just on State Route 14. That means in one direction you are saving 50 minutes."

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