

Within a year, the feature will extend its traffic coverage to Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside counties. Currently, commuters link to traffic updates for those counties from the "Real Time Traffic" page.

Besides giving real time speeds for freeways and streets – including carpool lane speeds for comparison – web users can see what's displayed on freeway message signs and check out views from freeway cameras.

They also can click on icons that will pinpoint freeway incidents, such as

accidents, or track freeway construction closures. Map features allow viewers to zoom in and out, and the system will memorize a particular street or freeway location so a user can go right to it anytime.

Traffic information is displayed on metro.net, where the public can find ways to beat traffic by using the trip planner and other rideshare options.

As a measure of the interest in finding driving alternatives, metro.net already receives 40 million viewer hits a month. That number is expected to increase sharply with the new Metro "Real Time Traffic" feature.

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