



NEWS

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MTA ANNOUNCES OPENING OF FIRST 6.4-MILE SEGMENT OF CAR POOL LANES ON ROUTE 14 THROUGH THE SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

MTA and local elected dignitaries today officially opened the first 6.4-mile segment of a planned 36-mile car pool lane on the Route 14 freeway in the Santa Clarita Valley.

"These car pool lanes on Southland freeways are an important part of the region's overall transportation program aimed at improving mobility and encouraging people to share a ride," said MTA CEO Julian Burke.

The first segment which opened today runs in both directions along Route 14 between San Fernando Road (Route 126) and Sand Canyon Road. The car pool lanes require at least two persons per vehicle to use the special designated High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes.

Cost of the first segment is \$24 million, funded entirely by the MTA through federal and state gas tax dollars. Caltrans began construction in February, 1996.

The Route 14 HOV lane project consists of several segments totaling 36 miles of car pool lanes. When the entire project is completed in 2004, the special lanes will run from Route 5 in Santa Clarita to Avenue P-8 in Lancaster, benefiting both Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley commuters.

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The next segment to be opened will extend the car pool lanes to Escondido Canyon Road and is scheduled to be completed in June, 1999.

"The addition of these new car pool lanes brings us closer to our goal of having a car pool lane on virtually every freeway in the Los Angeles area by the year 2000," said Caltrans District 7 Director Tony Harris. "As a team, Caltrans and the MTA are working together to keep California moving."

Between 1992 and the year 2005, MTA will have programmed approximately \$780 million to Caltrans for the design and construction of HOV projects in Los Angeles County. Since 1992, MTA has partially funded nearly 100 miles of the special car pool lanes. There are a total of 160 miles of HOV lanes now in operation, the largest network of car pool lanes in the nation.

HOV lanes are added freeway lanes exclusively designated for use by car pools, van pools, motorcycles, and buses. Commuters using car pool lanes save time, an average of one minute per mile during rush hour.

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