

El Monte Busway Reverts to 3-Person Carpool Lane July 24

(July 19) Beginning Monday, July 24, three-person carpools once again will be required on the El Monte Busway – at least during the weekday peak commuting hours of 5 - 9 a.m. and 4 - 7 p.m.

The change is the result of a new law (Assembly Bill 769) signed earlier this month by Governor Gray Davis. Under the legislation, two-person carpools may use the busway during off-peak hours.

Caltrans maintenance crews plan to install new black and white regulatory signs along the busway, July 22 and 23. The California Highway Patrol, LA County Sheriff's Department and the LAPD will not cite carpool lane drivers who violate the new minimum occupancy requirements before July 24.

First carpool lane in California

The El Monte Busway is the first carpool lane in California to operate under two different minimum occupancy requirements. The legislation, AB-769, requires Caltrans traffic engineers to prepare and submit an operational study for this new demonstration project to the Legislature by January 1, 2001. The project is scheduled to terminate on July 1, 2001.

The busway, which extends 11.5 miles in each direction in the median of I-10 from the El Monte Bus Terminal on Santa Anita Avenue in El Monte to Alameda Street/Union Station in downtown Los Angeles, opened in 1973 as a "Buses Only" lane.

It was the first High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) project in Los Angeles County. In 1976, carpools with three or more persons were also allowed to use the Busway.

For years, the busway was the most successful carpool lane in Los Angeles County. During peak hours, it moved 80 buses and approximately 6,000 people per hour.

Editor's Note: This news release was issued by Caltrans. [Back to MTA Report](#)