

# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT



## FACTSHEET

MARCH 2023



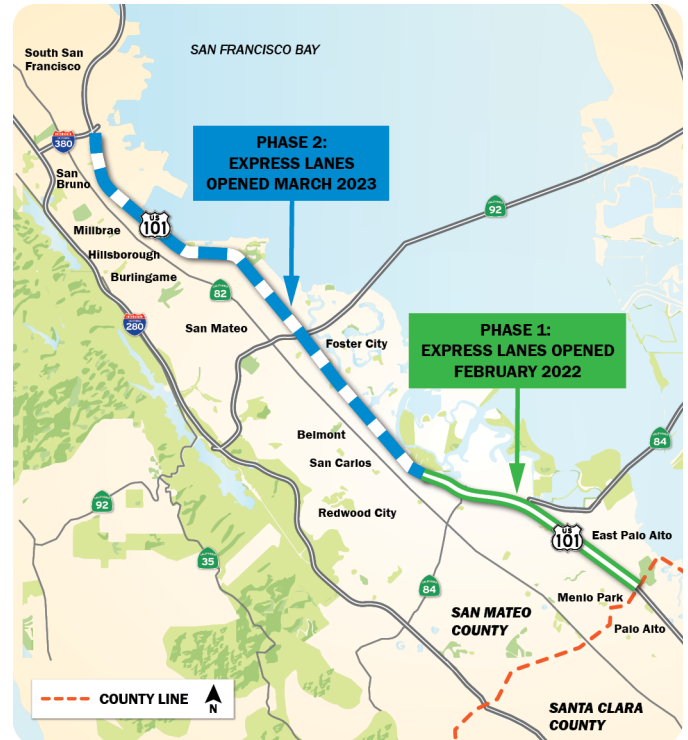
### PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in partnership with the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA) and City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) constructed Express Lanes on U.S. 101 from the San Mateo County/Santa Clara County line to South San Francisco. Express Lanes are carpool lanes with the option for non-carpoolers, such as solo drivers, to pay a toll to use the lanes when space is available.

The project was completed in two phases. During Phase One, existing carpool lanes from the San Mateo County/Santa Clara County line to Whipple Avenue in Redwood City were converted to operate as Express Lanes. These Express Lanes opened in February 2022.

During Phase Two, Caltrans reconfigured the highway to add a lane northbound and southbound on U.S. 101 from Whipple Avenue to just north of I-380 in South San Francisco. These Express Lanes opened in March 2023.

The San Mateo Express Lanes connect seamlessly to the Express Lanes operating in Santa Clara County. The project was a model of innovation, collaboration, and sustainability. For information on using the lanes, visit [101expresslanes.org](https://101expresslanes.org).



Project Location Map



### PROJECT QUICK FACTS:

- Constructed 2019-2023
- Project Cost \$581 million
- ENVISION Silver Sustainability Certification
- 22 Miles in each direction

With over \$53 million in funding from our private sector partners, this is one of the largest public/private infrastructure partnerships in the history of the region. Additional funding included \$9.5 million in federal funding and nearly \$307 million in state funding.

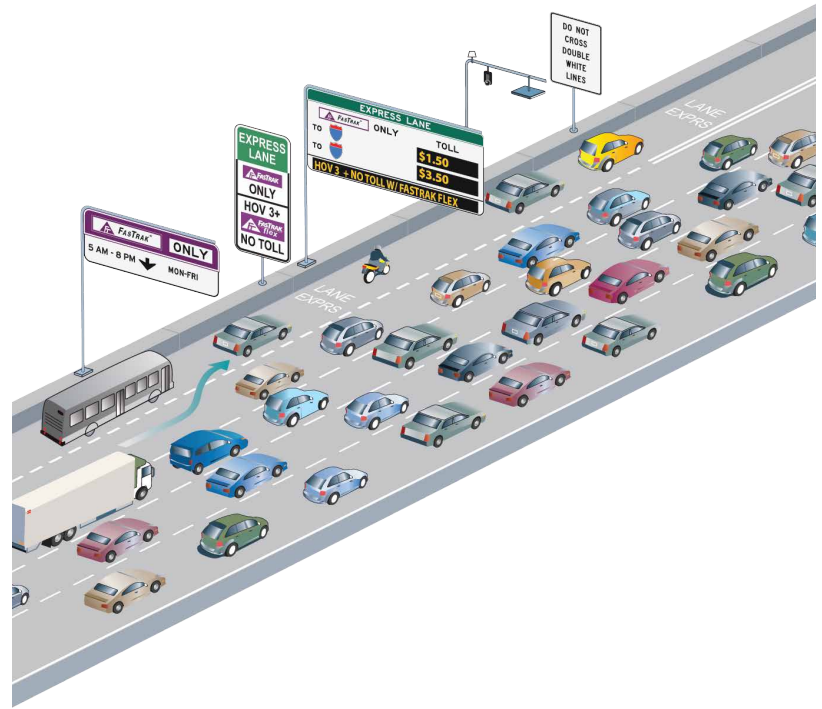


### KEY PROJECT BENEFITS:

- Reduce congestion in the corridor
- Increase person throughput (the number of people moved)
- Encourage carpooling and transit use
- Improve travel time and reliability for Express Lane users
- Use modern technology to manage traffic
- Upgrade pavement and lane striping

## WHAT ARE EXPRESS LANES?

Express Lanes are carpool lanes with the option for non-carpoolers, such as solo drivers, to pay a toll to use the lanes when space is available. Solo drivers who choose to pay to enter the lanes along with carpoolers and public transit users will get to their destinations faster. Drivers opting to use the Express Lanes help free up capacity in the rest of the lanes, improving travel times for everyone. Revenue from the lanes help fund operations and a [transportation benefits](#) program aimed at improving transportation access for low-income San Mateo County residents.



## HOW DO I USE THE NEW EXPRESS LANES?

All vehicles need [FasTrak® Flex](#) to use the lanes.

Be sure to set your FasTrak® Flex to the appropriate setting before beginning your trip.

- 3+ person carpools, vanpools, buses, and motorcycles can use the Express Lanes for free
- 2-person carpools can receive a 50% toll discount
- Solo Clean Air Vehicle (CAV) drivers can receive a 50% toll discount
- Solo drivers pay full tolls



FasTrak® Flex Toll Tag

The Express Lanes operate Monday – Friday from 5 AM to 8 PM. The lanes are open to all vehicles during all other times. Vehicles violating the Express Lanes rules are subject to a fine by the California Highway Patrol.

To learn more about the Express Lanes in San Mateo County, visit [101expresslanes.org](http://101expresslanes.org).

## WHO OWNS AND OPERATES THE EXPRESS LANES IN SAN MATEO COUNTY?

The San Mateo County Transportation Authority (SMCTA) and the City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County (C/CAG) have formed the San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL JPA) to manage the Express Lanes and its infrastructure. The SMCEL JPA is responsible for setting policies for operations of the Express Lanes. The Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority (BAIFA) has signed on to operate the Express Lanes.

## SUSTAINABLE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

The project team performed a comprehensive sustainability evaluation of the Project using the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's ENVISION® framework. ENVISION® is a tool to assess and rate sustainability, resiliency, and equity in all types of civil infrastructure that features a third-party certification program. In May 2021, the Project became an ENVISION® Silver Award recipient in recognition of its commitment to sustainable design and construction practices. For more information visit [sustainableinfrastructure.org/project-awards](http://sustainableinfrastructure.org/project-awards).

