NOTICE OF PREPARATION (NOP) FOR A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE I-680 NORTHBOUND HOV/EXPRESS LANE PROJECT

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED: The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in cooperation with the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) proposes to construct a high occupancy vehicle (HOV)/express lane in the northbound direction on Interstate 680 (I-680) from State Route 237 (SR 237) to SR 84 (approximately 15 miles), within Santa Clara and Alameda Counties in and near the cities of Milpitas, Fremont, Pleasanton, and the community of Sunol.

HOV lanes are also known as carpool or diamond lanes. Express lanes allow HOV users to travel without a fee and the excess capacity may be made accessible to low occupancy vehicles for a fee. The project will require the preparation of environmental studies under both California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

WHY THIS NOTICE: As part of the planning process, a public scoping meeting will be held to solicit comments on the scope of environmental studies being conducted for the project. Two scoping meetings are planned; in the City of Pleasanton on Wednesday October 3, 2012; and the City of Fremont on Thursday October 4, 2012. Both meetings will cover the same material.

WHAT IS BEING PLANNED: The project would include the following major features:

- Addition of a new HOV/express lane in the northbound direction on I-680 extending from SR 237 in Santa Clara County to SR 84 (Vallecritos Road) in Alameda County (project);
- Widening of existing paved surfaces;
- Construction of auxiliary lanes connecting on-ramps and off-ramps in the northbound direction between the following six freeway interchanges: Jacklin Road, Scott Creek Road, Mission Boulevard (SR 262), Durham Road (Auto Mall Parkway), Washington Boulevard, and Mission Boulevard (SR 238);
- Widening or modification of overcrossing and undercrossing structures to accommodate the additional lane;
- Demolition and replacement of the Sheridan Road overcrossing;
- Widening of the Alameda Creek Bridge in the northbound direction;
- Construction of retaining walls at various locations to accommodate the northbound widening;
- Installation of electronic tolling equipment and signage; and
- Modification of existing ramp metering and Traffic Operations System (TOS) facilities.

WHERE YOU COME IN: The scoping meetings are intended to inform the public about what’s planned and solicit input regarding the environmental studies being conducted. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide input. Members of the public can also provide written comments to Caltrans.

All comments must be received by October 16, 2012. Please submit written comments on the scope of the environmental studies to Sheryl Garcia, Caltrans District 4, 111 Grand Avenue, Mail Station 8B, Oakland, CA 94612 or via email to Sheryl_M_Garcia@dot.ca.gov or i680HOVExpressLane@gmail.com.

WHEN AND WHERE:

Pleasanton
October 3
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Hearst Elementary School
5301 Case Avenue
Pleasanton, CA 94566

Fremont
October 4
6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Chadbourne Elementary
801 Plymouth Ave
Fremont, CA 94539

CONTACT: Meeting facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for special accommodations should be directed to Sheryl Garcia at (510) 286-5611 or use the California Relay Service TTY number, (800) 735-2929 no later than five days before the meeting.