Walnut Creek 680 Corridor Update

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in partnership with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority (CCTA), are working on many projects on the Interstate 680 (I-680) corridor in and around Walnut Creek, California. This flyer is to update you on these innovative projects.

The I-680 Southbound High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Gap Closure Project, environmentally cleared and approved by Caltrans in 2014, has been renamed the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Completion Project. The HOV Completion Project will complete the HOV lane on I-680 Southbound between Treat Boulevard and Rudgear Road in Walnut Creek.

Since Caltrans approved this project in 2014, the project has undergone changes in scope. These changes enable our partner CCTA to be more efficient with funding, reduce work redundancies and provide fewer disruptions to the traveling public. The changes include:

1. Postponement of the Sound Wall Construction at the edge of the shoulder on Northbound I-680 near the off ramp to North Main Street in Walnut Creek.

   Why the delay?  CCTA has programmed a future project listed in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) “To Widen I-680 in the Northbound Direction from Marina Vista to North Main Street”, Project #240587; this project would construct an HOV lane in the northbound direction of I-680 between North Main Street and Marina Vista in the same location where the sound wall has been proposed. If constructed as part of the HOV Completion Project, the sound wall likely would have a useful life of less than 15 years. The funding to construct this sound wall has been removed from the HOV Completion Project and reserved by the funding partners, Caltrans and CCTA, to demonstrate our commitment to construct this sound wall at a later date.

2. Construction of the HOV Completion Project is being combined with the construction of the Interstate 680 (I-680) Southbound Express Lane Project. The I-680 Southbound Express Lanes project will convert 11.5 miles of HOV lane into an Express lane, starting at Marina Vista Avenue in Martinez and continuing to Rudgear Road in Walnut Creek. The Express lane will allow carpoolers and other approved vehicles to continue to use the lane for free, and allow single occupant vehicles to use the lane for a fee.

   Why the change?  The 11.5 mile conversion overlaps with the construction of the HOV Completion Project, allowing greater efficiencies by constructing the two projects simultaneously. Combined, the two projects will function seamlessly together from the start. It will cost less to construct the projects together, and overall construction will take less time, minimizing the overall impact on motorists. This means the improvements on I-680 will take less time and be completed sooner for motorists.

CCTA is currently hosting an online open house for the I-680 Southbound Express Lane Project. Please visit: http://680expresslanesproject.com/home/ or http://www.ccta.net for more information. For questions on this update, please contact: Caltrans Public Information Officer Shannon Brinias at (510) 286-5543 or Shannon.Brinias@dot.ca.gov.
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