



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS BREAKS GROUND ON NEW BUS/CARPOOL LANES ON GOLDEN STATE FREEWAY

Los Angeles – Caltrans today broke ground on a project to construct new bus/carpool lanes on the Golden State Freeway (I-5) between the Hollywood Freeway (SR-170) and the Buena Vista Street interchange in Burbank. The \$69.2 million project is financed in part (\$39.3 million) by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

"This project will encourage commuters to carpool and use transit, which will help reduce traffic congestion, gasoline consumption, and improve the air quality in the San Fernando Valley," said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim. "The improvements we're implementing will benefit residents, commuters, and commercial vehicles by improving mobility along Interstate 5."

The project will build nearly nine miles (4.4 miles in each direction) of new bus/carpool lanes (also known as a high occupancy vehicle, or HOV, lanes) and repair damaged pavement on one of the most heavily traveled freeways in the state. The section on I-5 between SR-170 and Buena Vista Street has an average daily traffic volume of nearly 200,000. The project is expected to be completed by fall 2014.

"Metro is proud to partner with Caltrans on the construction of this HOV project by contributing \$22.6 million of Prop C funds," said Metro Board Chair and Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. "Metro strives to improve regional mobility and sustainability by alleviating congestion, encouraging carpooling, improving air quality and providing a smoother ride for motorists. Today's groundbreaking is another example of our efforts to achieve these goals."

In September, work started on another \$140 million I-5 project that received \$31.2 million in Recovery Act funding. It is adding seven miles (3.5 in each direction) of new HOV lanes on I-5 between the Ronald Reagan Freeway (SR-118) and SR-170. It will also repair damaged pavement, construct a direct HOV connector at the I-5/SR-170 interchange, add new soundwalls, and realign ramps. The project is expected to be completed by spring 2015.

HOV lanes typically carry two to three times more people at peak traffic hours than regular lanes. There are currently 514 miles of HOV lanes in Los Angeles, about 36 percent of all such lanes in the state.

California has obligated nearly \$2.6 billion in Recovery Act funding to nearly 1,000 highway, local street, and job training transportation projects statewide. For more information on the Recovery Act visit <http://recovery.ca.gov>

