



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW CARPOOL LANE BEGINS CONSTRUCTION ON ROUTE 14 IN PALMDALE

PALMDALE – Elected officials joined state and local representatives here today to celebrate the start of a 6.2-mile, \$41 million High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV, or carpool) lane on the Antelope Valley Freeway (Route 14) from Mountain Springs Road to Avenue P-8.

The project, expected to complete in spring 2007, will alleviate congestion and enhance safety in this rapidly growing area north of Los Angeles. It is the last stage of a five-phase HOV lane construction project initiated in 1996 at the Highway 126 junction. When completed, the project will provide 35.9 miles of continuous carpool lanes from Santa Clarita to Palmdale.

“The HOV project will provide much-needed congestion relief while paving the way for continued growth in this important region,” said California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District Director Doug Failing. “Caltrans is committed to the HOV system because of the numerous benefits it provides to motorists.”

On average, HOV lanes have been shown to save users at least one minute per mile, compared to mixed flow traffic during peak hours. Non-users also benefit in reduced congestion, improved traffic flow, lower accident rates and improved air quality.

“Today’s groundbreaking marks a major milestone in the development and construction of this last segment of a HOV lane along this vital corridor that will provide commuters a viable transportation alternative to driving solo in their cars,” said Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board Chairman Frank Roberts. “Metro is proud to be a funding partner in bringing this transportation improvement to the north county area of the region.”

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