



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** July 25, 2014  
**District:** 12 – Irvine  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CALTRANS RECOMMENDS ITS PLAN TO IMPROVE MOBILITY AND RELIEVE CONGESTION ON I-405**

*Alternative 3 Keeps Promises to OC Voters under Measure M*

**Irvine** – Caltrans informed the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) today that out of the four possible options for the Interstate 405 Improvement project, the Project Development Team (PDT) recommends selecting Alternative 3 as the Preferred Alternative to improve mobility, relieve congestion and preserve the promises made to voters under Measure M. The recommendation will require Caltrans' District 12 Director's formal approval with the signing of the Final Environmental Document and Project Report in early 2015.

“Caltrans commends the hard work of the OCTA Board of Directors and CEO in conducting a comprehensive, robust evaluation of four alternatives to improve I-405,” said Ryan Chamberlain, District 12 Director. “Alternative 3 meets Caltrans goal to address regional growth and provide long-term congestion relief in the face of limited opportunities for current and future freeway expansion. It moves the most vehicles and people per hour, improves air quality, travel times, and provides trip reliability. Caltrans' priority is to provide a safe and sustainable regional transportation network that will enhance Orange County's economy and livability.”

Alternative 3 adds one new general purpose (non-tolled) lane in each direction of I-405 from I-605 in the north to SR-73 in the south. In addition, Caltrans proposes to add a High Occupancy Toll (HOT) lane in each direction that would combine with the existing carpool lane to create two HOT or Express Lanes in each direction. The new general purpose lane would be funded using Measure M funds as promised. The design and construction of the Express Lanes would be phased in, as further enhancement of the project, when funding is identified by Caltrans in the future, but not using Measure M funds. Caltrans will work with OCTA as it proceeds with a Design-Build contract for the new general purpose lanes.

Construction for the project is expected to begin in 2016.

**Benefits in travel time, volume and throughput of Alternative 3** *Traffic Projections (Year 2040)*

	No Build	Alternative 1	Alternative 2	Alternative 3
<b>Peak Hour Throughput per direction</b>	6,000 vehicles/hour	7,200 vehicles/hour	8,400 vehicles/hour	<b>9,500 vehicles/hour</b>
<b>Average Daily Traffic</b>	288,000 – 427,000	321,000 – 475,000	344,000 – 509,000	<b>352,000 – 512,000</b>
<b>Travel Time SR-73 to I-605</b>	133 min GP lane 121 min HOV lane	57 min GP lane 54 min HOV lane	28 min GP lane 27 min HOV lane	<b>29 min GP lane 13 min Express Lane</b>

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