



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** December 6, 2011  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **New Car-Pool Lanes to Open on U.S. Route 101 in Sonoma County**

**COTATI** – Caltrans and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority announced today they will open the new High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes, commonly known as “Car-Pool Lanes,” on U.S. Route 101 in Cotati, Sonoma County, are open. The southbound lanes opened on the morning of December 3, while the northbound lanes opened on the morning of December 6.

The new, seven mile-long HOV lanes run from Rohnert Park Expressway in the north to Old Redwood Highway Bridge in the south. This project is one of four HOV lane projects in Sonoma County that are either under construction or completed.

The \$82 million project is funded in part by over \$80 million from voter-approved Proposition 1B Transportation Bonds, with additional funds coming from Sonoma County's “Measure M,” the quarter-cent transportation sales tax.

“Thanks to this investment in the state highway system, travelers through Sonoma County will see a decrease in congestion and an improvement in air quality,” said Acting Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

“These new HOV lanes are a vital addition to Route 101 in Sonoma County,” Caltrans District 4 Director Bijan Sartipi said. “They are one more step toward our goal of providing Sonoma County residents a viable alternative to solo commuting.”

Working closely with the contractor and the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, Caltrans engineers decided to open the lanes early to provide congestion relief before the upcoming winter. The rest of the project, including the final paving, striping, and new guardrails, is expected to finish next summer. At that time, the new HOV lanes will be closed at various times during non-commute hours to accommodate the paving.

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