



# NEWS RELEASE

**Today's Date:** October 17, 2008  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Agencies Hold Dual Groundbreaking/Ribbon Cutting Events

**Fremont** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA), the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (ACTIA), AC Transit, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), and the City of Fremont held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the State Route 84 High Occupancy Vehicle Lane Extension and a groundbreaking ceremony for the Ardenwood Park and Ride Expansion projects in the city of Fremont.

“This is a combined celebration and is truly representative of great partnering and collaboration,” said Caltrans District Director Bijan Sartipi. “Caltrans and our partners worked together to bring to commuters a pair of projects that totally complement each other and are designed to make commuting easier.”

The HOV extension project continues the HOV lane from Newark Boulevard back to I-880, a distance of approximately 1 mile, and provides an HOV bypass lane at the intersection of Decoto Road. The construction capital cost for the project was approximately \$5.7M and was funded with State Highway Transportation Improvement (STIP) funds and Regional Measure 2 (RM2) funds.

In the long term, as user demand increases in this corridor, these improvements will encourage car pooling and use of mass transit. High occupancy vehicles will be able to enter the HOV lane much quicker, which in turn will relieve congestion and reduce travel time delays.

In addition to the HOV lane, Caltrans is working with several transportation partners - MTC, ACCMA, ACTIA, AC Transit, BAAQMD, and the City of Fremont – to increase the capacity at the Ardenwood Park and Ride lot.

The Ardenwood Park and Ride lot is located at the junction of State Highway 84 and Ardenwood Boulevard, on the border of the cities of Fremont and Newark. It serves a number of AC Transit Transbay lines including the M, the SB and the U, as well as a number of DB (Dumbarton Bridge) lines.





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"I am happy to see this much needed project move forward in such a timely manner," said Senator Ellen Corbett (D-San Leandro). "I want to thank the voters for supporting the initiatives that help pay for this critical project and others in our community. This project will help reduce pollution from vehicle emissions, help the local economy, and improve the quality of life for my constituents. We need to continue to get our transportation funds moving and our important projects built."

The expansion project will provide an additional 233 parking spaces, landscaping, lighting, a guard booth, and a new transit center including two bus bays, bus shelters, bicycle parking and driver restrooms. "Nextbus" signage at the bus shelters will display arrival times for buses, and Route 84 freeway signage will inform motorists about available parking spaces and bus arrival times. Motorists will therefore be encouraged to take advantage of the park and ride facilities to travel by carpool or transit.

"We need to reach out to all commuters and transit riders whether they live next to a bus stop or not," said AC Transit Director Jeff Davis. "Traffic along this corridor is growing, making park and ride facilities like this one critical if we ever intend to control our carbon footprint."

The \$1.62 million construction contract is funded with Regional Measure 2 funds (MTC) and ACTIA Measure B Funds.

The existing park and ride lot has been filled to its capacity of just over 100 spaces for over 20 years, usually before 7 a.m. The expansion project will increase the lots capacity to about 350 spaces.

The scope of work for this \$8.2 million AC Transit project includes property acquisition, obtaining a building permit from the City of Fremont and a construction encroachment permit from Caltrans, project design and construction.

The ACCMA has managed the real estate property acquisition process for AC Transit, and is working cooperatively with AC Transit on design, permits and construction. AC Transit will operate the expanded park and ride facility.

