



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: April 24, 2009
District: 4 - Oakland
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The Gap Is Closed! Caltrans Opens New Diamond Lane on Northbound U.S Highway 101

San Rafael – The new northbound High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane on U.S. Highway 101 in Marin County opened to traffic at 3:30 a.m., Friday, April 24, 2009.

The new HOV lane stretches from Lucky Drive to North San Pedro Road and “closes the gap” between the existing HOV lanes along 101 in Marin County. In addition, the new lane will relieve a chronic bottleneck. Previously, northbound 101 narrowed from four lanes to three at Lucky Drive. As of this morning, the freeway now has four lanes – three regular lanes and one HOV lane – from State Route 1 in the south to State Route 37 in the north.

On February 1 of this year, Caltrans opened the new southbound U.S. 101 HOV lane. Southbound commuters noticed an immediate and dramatic decrease in congestion. Caltrans expects similar results for northbound side of the highway once commuters become accustomed to the new lane.

In addition - on May 3, 2009, Caltrans may, if traffic conditions warrant, re-stripe the connector ramp from westbound I-580 to northbound U.S. 101 from one lane to two. Opening up an additional lane on the ramp will help ease congestion. However, the two-lane configuration will only be temporary. A new ramp structure is planned. At some point, the existing ramp must be reduced back to one lane in order to accommodate construction of the new ramp.

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