



# NEWS RELEASE

**Date:** Friday, August 14, 2009  
**District:** 4 – Oakland  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **CALTRANS PREPARED FOR POSSIBLE BART STRIKE** Information at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist4/bartstrike>

**Oakland-** The consequences of a BART strike for Bay Area traffic would be significant and far-reaching as over 300,000 displaced BART riders will put pressure on an already congested freeway system. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is prepared for the possibility of a BART strike.

Commuters are encouraged to plan ahead and carpool, use public transit and flex work hours where possible. Moving more people in fewer vehicles will help reduce congestion. Employers are also encouraged to consider alternate work schedules and telecommuting to assist in mitigating the potential congestion.

Park & Ride lots provide easy access to freeways and are a good meeting spot for friends, neighbors and co-workers to form carpools. Public transit also stops at many Park & Ride lots. BART will keep station parking lots open for carpools.

Carpool lane operating hours on the freeways will remain the same at present but may be extended, depending on the impact that a strike has on traffic. Caltrans traffic engineers will be monitoring traffic to make that determination in the first few days of the strike.

Per an agreement between Caltrans, the City of Oakland, the California Highway Patrol and AC Transit, Caltrans is preparing the West Grand Avenue on-ramp to the Bay Bridge to be converted to carpool/HOV and FasTrak access only from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Vehicles with three or more passengers, buses, motorcycles and commercial trucks and those with FasTrak will only be allowed during these times.

This will enable AC Transit to increase its Transbay service by lessening the trip time to San Francisco. This HOV conversion/restriction will be temporary for the duration of the strike.

Caltrans will deploy field personnel to:

- monitor traffic conditions;
- adjust metering lights at on-ramps and at the Bay Bridge;
- clear incidents and accidents as quickly as possible; and
- activate changeable message signs and highway advisory radios with useful traffic conditions, travel and carpool information.
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Caltrans will also defer maintenance and construction lane closures to off-peak hours, overnight or postpone to a later date.

Caltrans will provide more toll collectors at the bridges to handle increased traffic where necessary. FasTrak-only facilities will remain as is and will not be converted to cash collection lanes.

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