

The Route 87 Project

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On-ramp From Airport Parkway To Northbound Route 87 To Close Motorist safety safeguarded

Construction on the new Route 87 project is bringing about changes to the area as traffic is switched to the newly built freeway lanes. Recently, northbound traffic was put on the new elevated freeway between I-880 and U.S. 101. This new configuration has resulted in a less than ideal driving situation for motorists making several different movements where Route 87 and 101 meet.

The two lanes of Route 87 just before the 101 connector move to the right in order to add an HOV (carpool) lane. This forces two lanes of traffic to merge into one lane in order to get to northbound 101 because the connector is currently striped for the HOV lane and one mixed flow lane. The on-ramp from Airport Parkway does not have adequate space for traffic to merge onto Route 87 and access northbound 101 as on-ramp traffic must merge across two lanes in order to get to the northbound 101 connector. In addition, the number two lane of Route 87 has to exit to North First St. and a weaving pattern has resulted as motorists attempt to make the conflicting maneuvers.

The on-ramp from Airport Parkway is a temporary route until the northbound on-ramp to Route 87 is completed at Skyport Drive. The completion of the Skyport Drive on-ramp to northbound Route 87 is scheduled for mid 2005. To increase the safety of motorists, the on-ramp to northbound Route 87 from Airport Parkway will be permanently closed.

Effective Saturday, January 24, 2004, local traffic and traffic from the San Jose Airport will access northbound 101 via a short detour to the First Street on-ramp (see detour map).