

# I-680 Express Lane Extension: Overview & Toll Ordinance Amendment

August 8, 2020



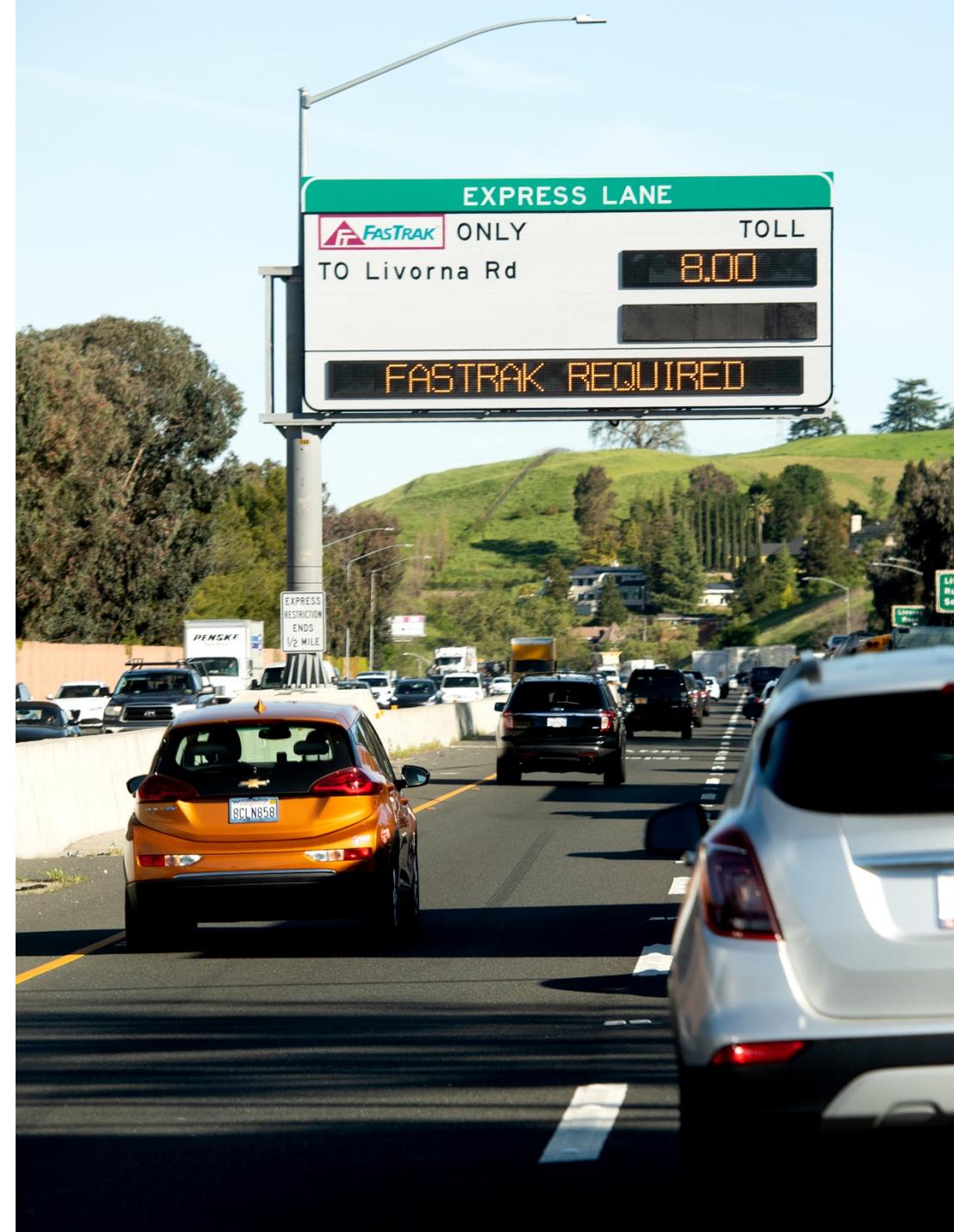
# Welcome

- The I-680 Express Lane Extension (southbound from Martinez to Walnut Creek) will open first as an HOV 2+ carpool lane by September 2020 and then begin tolling in early 2021, creating a continuous 23-mile southbound express lane from Martinez to San Ramon.
- For consistency, the proposed tolling rules are the same as those on the existing I-680 Express Lanes (Walnut Creek to San Ramon).
- You may submit written comments through September 9, 2020 at 5 p.m. for consideration by MTC as part of its process to adopt the amendment to add the I-680 Extension to MTC's existing express lane toll ordinance.



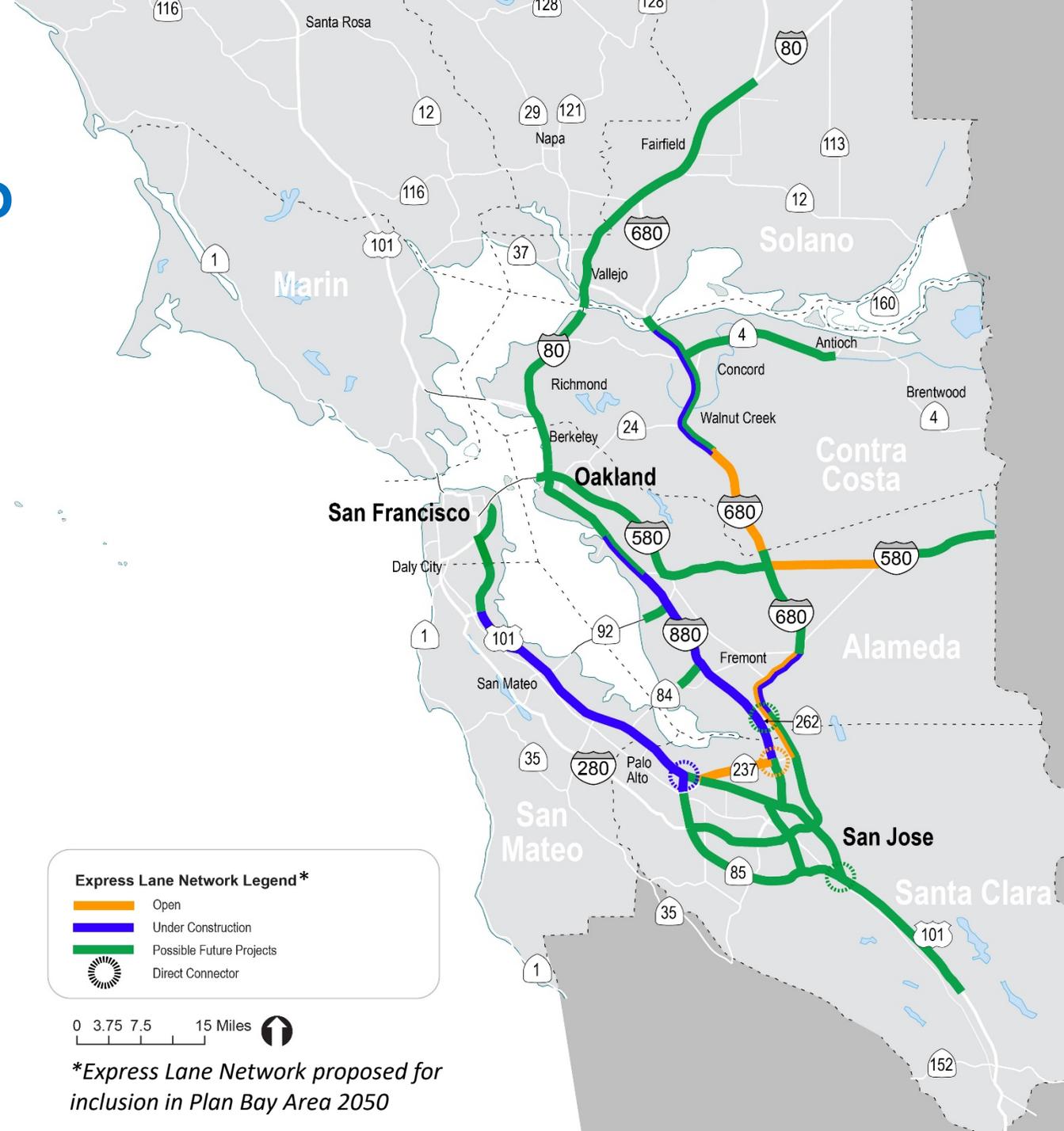
# Why Express Lanes?

- Express lanes use tolling and technology to keep traffic moving and improve enforcement, giving carpoolers, bus riders and solo drivers the choice for a more reliable trip.
- Express lanes aim to:
  - Improve HOV lane performance to better serve carpools and buses
  - Offer a more reliable trip when it really matters
  - Move more people with existing capacity
  - Expand and connect the network of HOV lanes for carpools and buses over time



# What is the Express Lanes Network vision?

- By the end of 2022, there will be about 220 miles of express lanes open in the Bay Area (e.g. lanes that are 'open' (orange) and 'under construction' (blue) in map).
- Over the next 25 years, the Bay Area plans to add about 380 more miles of express lanes (e.g. lanes that are 'possible future projects' (green) in map) to create a 600-mile network.

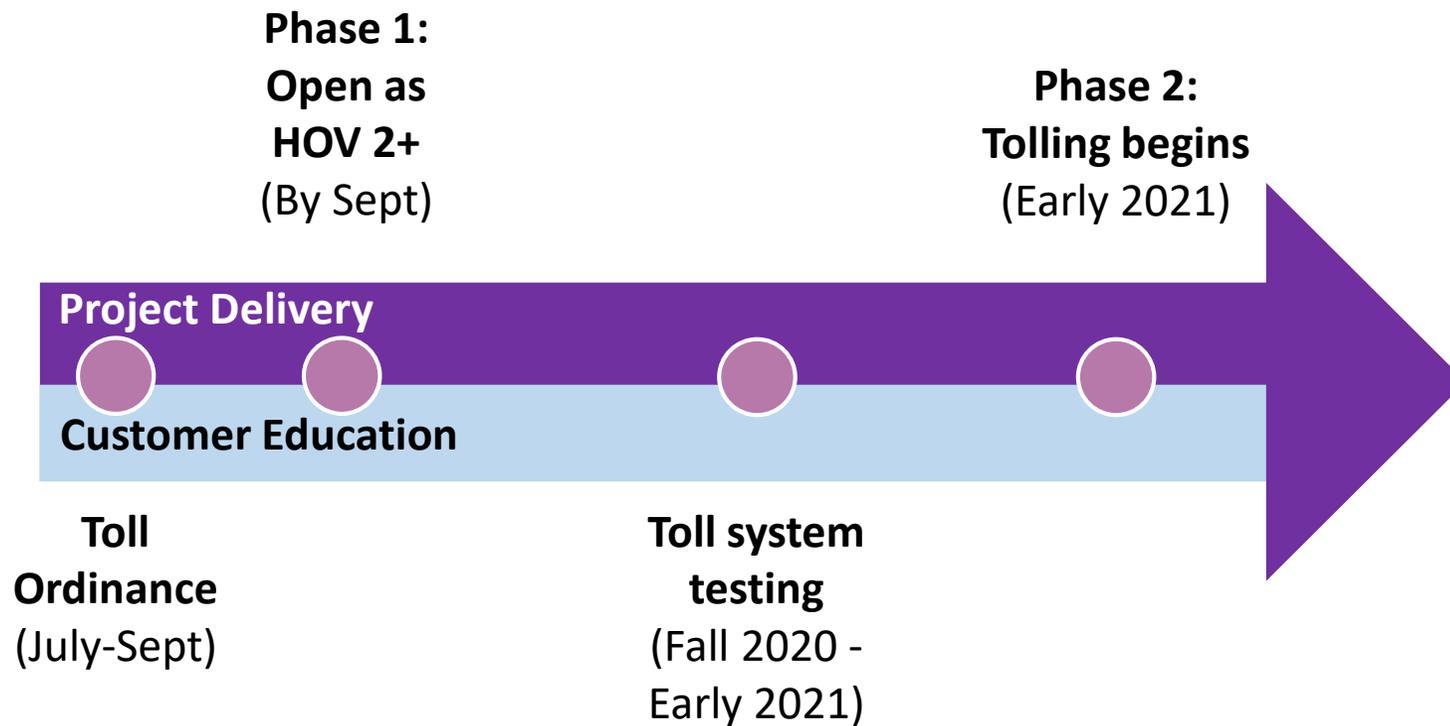


# Where is the I-680 Express Lane Extension?

- The I-680 Extension southbound from Martinez to Walnut Creek in Contra Costa County is converting 11 miles of HOV lanes, including 5 miles of new HOV lanes through Walnut Creek, to express lanes.
- The I-680 Extension connects to the existing southbound I-680 Express Lane, creating a continuous 23-mile express lane through Contra Costa County.
- MTC and the Contra Costa Transportation Authority partnered to build the I-680 Extension.



# What is the schedule to open the I-680 Express Lane Extension?

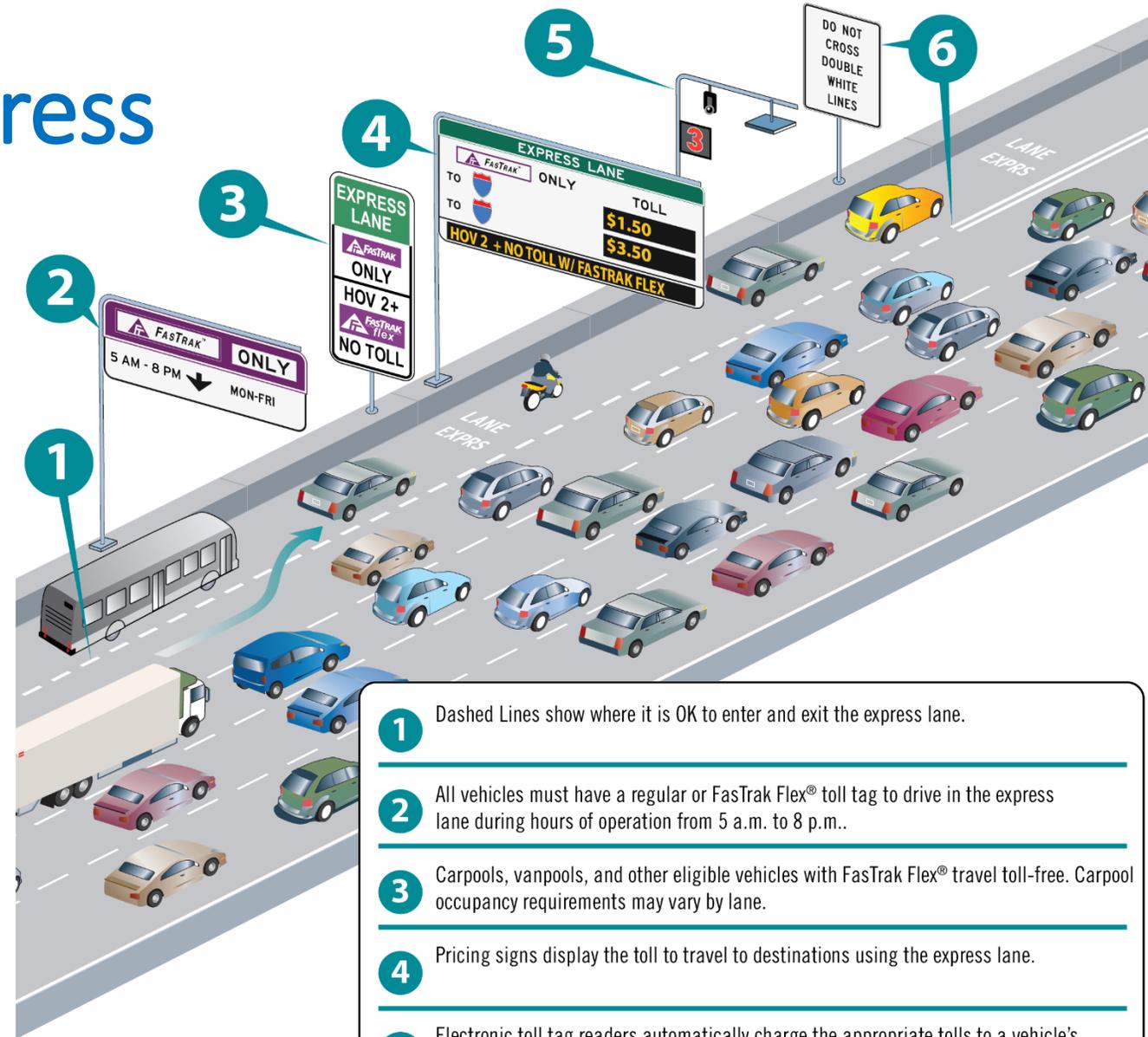


The I-680 Extension will open in two phases:

- By September 2020, the lane will open as a high occupancy vehicle lane for carpools with 2 or more persons.
- By early 2021, tolling will begin.

# How will the I-680 Express Lane Extension work?

- Tolling will work just like the existing I-680 Express Lanes
- All vehicles in the lane must have FasTrak®
- Tolls can change every 5 minutes based on traffic
- Solo drivers can choose to pay full tolls to use the lane
- Clean air vehicles can choose to pay half-price tolls to use the lane
- Carpools, vanpools, buses & motorcycles can use the lane toll-free
- Enforcement is enhanced by toll system technology



- 1 Dashed Lines show where it is OK to enter and exit the express lane.
- 2 All vehicles must have a regular or FasTrak Flex® toll tag to drive in the express lane during hours of operation from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m..
- 3 Carpools, vanpools, and other eligible vehicles with FasTrak Flex® travel toll-free. Carpool occupancy requirements may vary by lane.
- 4 Pricing signs display the toll to travel to destinations using the express lane.
- 5 Electronic toll tag readers automatically charge the appropriate tolls to a vehicle's FasTrak® account. Numeric beacons show CHP the number of people in the vehicle for occupancy enforcement.
- 6 Double white lines show where it is illegal to enter and exit the express lane. These access limitations improve traffic flow.

# What are the tolling rules for the I-680 Express Lane Extension and why?

Rule	I-680 Today	I-680 Extension When Open
Operating Hours	5 AM – 8 PM	Same
HOV Eligibility	HOV 2+	Same
FasTrak Required	Yes	Same
Tolls	Zone toll: \$0.50 min; no max Solo Driver: full toll HOV 2+: no toll Clean air vehicles: 50% toll*	Same
Enforcement	CHP and toll system Toll system vios. match BATA: \$25 1 <sup>st</sup> notice; \$70 2 <sup>nd</sup> notice	Same

- Support consistency with the existing I-680 and I-580 express lanes.
- Meet federal speed requirements of 45 miles per hour in the express lane most of the time.
- Ensure drivers follow the rules so the lane operates as planned.

\* Per adopted toll ordinance, 50% toll for Clean Air Vehicles begins when I-880 Express Lanes open (estimated September 2020)

# How are tolls set?

- The minimum toll is \$0.50 per toll zone to recover the cost of operating the lanes. There is no maximum toll so that drivers always have an option to use the lanes. For reference, tolls on the I-680 express lanes from Walnut Creek to San Ramon currently top out at \$10 for the 12-mile corridor.
- Tolls increase as congestion increases, and decrease as congestion decreases. Tolls can change every 5 minutes.
- Traffic in the Express Lane will be managed to operate at about 45 mph or better.



# Is FasTrak® Required? Yes!!!

- A FasTrak account is required for ALL vehicles in the express lanes
- Solo drivers can use a FasTrak Flex® toll tag set in '1' or a standard non-switchable toll tag to pay tolls
- Carpools and motorcycles must use a properly set FasTrak Flex toll tag to travel toll-free
- Eligible Clean Air Vehicles must apply for and use a properly set FasTrak CAV toll tag to pay half-price tolls
- Vehicles without FasTrak will be billed for the toll and receive a violation notice (\$25 penalty 1st notice, plus \$45 late fee 2<sup>nd</sup> notice)



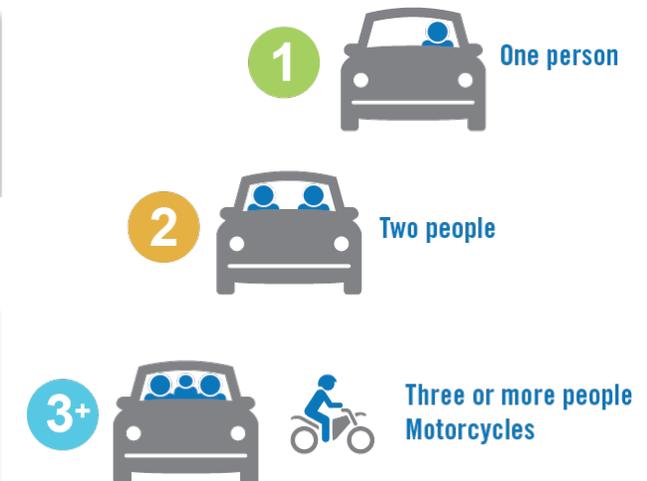
Standard FasTrak®



FasTrak Flex®



FasTrak® CAV



# What if I cannot afford to pay the toll?

- MTC recognizes that affordability is an issue for some drivers:
  - Many low-income workers drive alone to work.
  - Carpooling or transit may not be good alternatives.
  - Budget-wise, it is much harder for low-income workers to pay to drive alone in the express lane.
- MTC is working on plans to pilot a low-income toll discount program.
- Remember, you can carpool, vanpool or ride the bus in the express lane toll-free.
  - Find a carpool partner: [carpool.511.org](http://carpool.511.org)
  - Find a vanpool: [vanpool.511.org](http://vanpool.511.org)
  - Find a bus: [511.org](http://511.org)



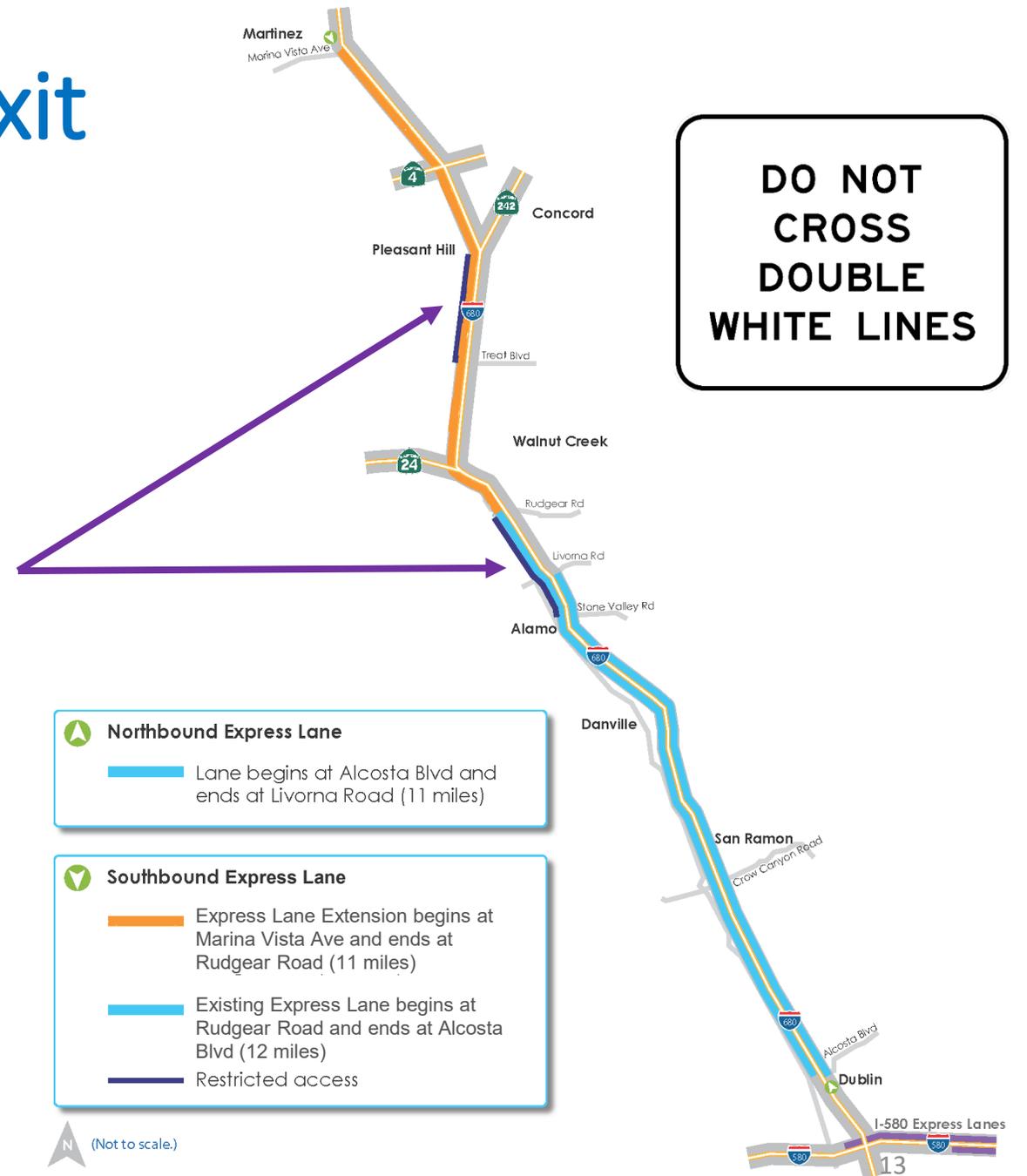
# How does enforcement work?

- The toll system uses license plate cameras to automatically enforce toll violations when a driver does not have FasTrak. The cost of a toll violation is the toll plus a \$25 penalty for the first notice, and an additional \$45 late fee for the second notice.
- CHP officers use toll system technology to enforce carpool occupancy and other laws. The minimum citation is \$491 for a high-occupancy vehicle citation.



# Where can I enter and exit the I-680 Express Lane?

- You can enter or exit wherever you see a single white dashed line.
- To keep traffic moving safely, the ability to enter and exit the southbound express lane will be restricted in two locations by double white solid lines.
- It is illegal to cross double white lines; CHP will issue tickets.



# Comments?

The deadline to submit written public comment is September 9, 2020.

1. Submit comments by email to [expresslanes@bayareametro.gov](mailto:expresslanes@bayareametro.gov); reference 'BAIFA Toll Ordinance' as the subject.
2. Submit comments in a letter to MTC's Public Information Office at 375 Beale Street, Suite 800, San Francisco, CA 94105; reference 'BAIFA Toll Ordinance' as the subject.
3. Make a public comment in person at MTC's Public Hearing at the BAIFA meeting on September 23, 2020

Please rate the effectiveness of these materials:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Y5QRYKL>

Thank you!

