



NEWS RELEASE

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New Lanes to Open on Southbound Benicia-Martinez Bridge

Benicia – All four lanes on the newly-reconfigured southbound Benicia-Martinez Bridge will open by Saturday morning, August 1, 2009, Caltrans and the Bay Area Toll Authority announced today.

The new lanes will open in two stages. The southern half will open by Friday morning, July 31, while the northern half will open Saturday morning, August 1.

This structure carried both lanes of traffic until August 2007, when the new bridge opened. The new bridge now carries northbound traffic. The existing bridge has been modified to carry four lanes of southbound traffic. In addition, the newly reconfigured bridge has wide shoulders and a pathway for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The 50 million dollar reconfiguration project was financed primarily through Regional Measure One, the extra dollar motorists pay in bridge tolls. The new configuration will greatly increase both convenience and safety for Bay Area drivers.

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