

News from SANBAG and Caltrans



San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 1170 W. 3rd Street, 2nd Floor ■ San Bernardino, CA 92410-1715
■ www.sanbag.ca.gov ■ Contact: Jane Dreher, Public Information Officer ■ (909) 884-8276

February 14, 2008 – For Immediate Release

Meetings to Offer Chance for Public Comments on Proposed I-10 Carpool Lanes

Carpool lanes are in the early planning stages on Interstate 10 between Ontario and Redlands, and two meetings will be held this month to allow residents, business owners, commuters and other interested citizens to comment on the project.

The California Department of Transportation and San Bernardino Associated Governments will host public meetings as follows:

- ▶ **February 21**, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Redlands City Council Chambers, 35 Cajon St., Redlands
- ▶ **February 26**, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm, Harry S. Truman Middle School Multi-Purpose Room, 16224 Mallory Dr., Fontana

SANBAG and Caltrans are conducting preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the proposed addition of one carpool lane in each direction to I-10 between Haven Avenue in Ontario and Ford Street in Redlands. Also known as high occupancy vehicle lanes, these lanes are designed to help relieve traffic congestion and encourage ridesharing. The new lanes, which will cover about 25 miles, are intended to boost access to logistics centers and hospitals along the freeway and improve the flow of goods through the San Bernardino Valley.

“Interstate 10 is one of our region’s most heavily congested freight and commuter corridors,” said SANBAG Executive Director Deborah Barmack. “Adding carpool lanes will improve our traffic flow and offer an important incentive for travelers to share rides,” she said.

Caltrans District Director Mike Perovich pointed out the benefits of having carpool lanes extend from where they end now in Ontario.

News from SANBAG and Caltrans
Page 2 of 2

“Extending these lanes east from Ontario will provide continuous high occupancy vehicle lanes on I-10 through almost the entire section of San Bernardino County. This will offer greater opportunities for ridesharing throughout the region, helping to move more people per vehicle on this crowded freeway,” Perovich said.

In addition to the new carpool lanes, the project proposes to widen or rebuild existing freeway bridges, add a concrete median barrier, improve drainage and add auxiliary lanes to help drivers merge onto the freeway.

During this phase of the project, a number of engineering studies will be completed, including land surveying, mapping, traffic operations, railroad operations, the location of public utilities, right of way requirements, drainage needs, project alternatives, geometric drawings, evaluation of the project alternatives and preliminary cost estimates.

This phase also includes studies to show how the project will affect the local environment. Studies will take into account opinions of community members, air quality, cultural and historic properties, the presence of hazardous materials, sensitive plants and wildlife, noise, water quality and visual aesthetics.

The public meetings will allow visitors to view maps and exhibits, talk to project planners and provide written comments about the project using provided comment cards. Visitors also will receive fact sheets and can register to receive future project information.

The engineering and environmental studies are scheduled to be complete by late 2010. Final design and right of way requirements may be complete by 2014. Construction could start by 2015 and take about three years.

Starting construction is largely contingent upon the availability of funds for the project, which is estimated to be \$1.2 billion in today’s dollars. This cost estimate does not account for future cost escalations and is subject to change. Funds likely will be a combination of federal, state and local sources, including Measure I, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in San Bernardino County.

###