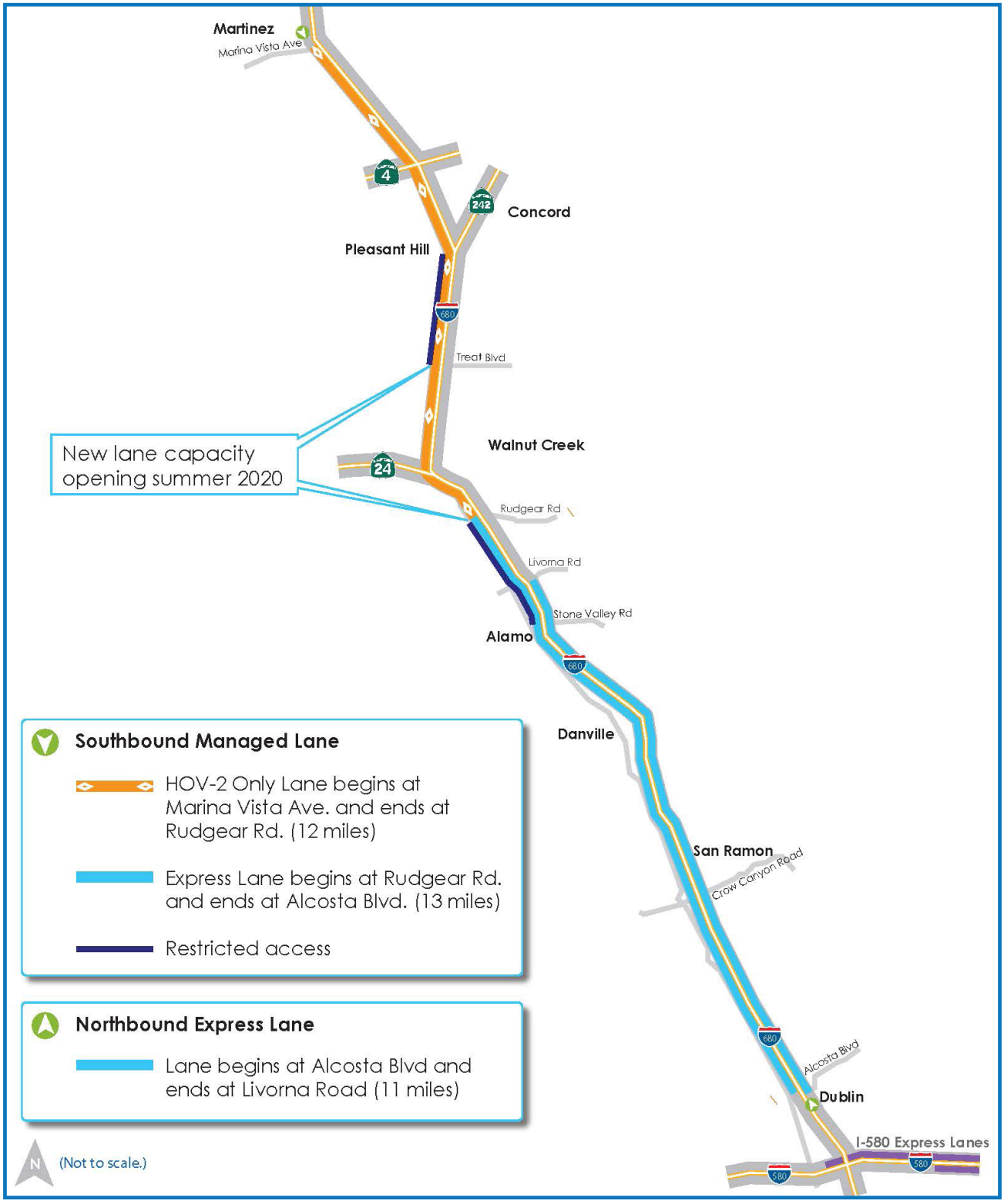
I-680 Contra Costa Managed Lanes 2020

BAY AREA EXPRESS LANES

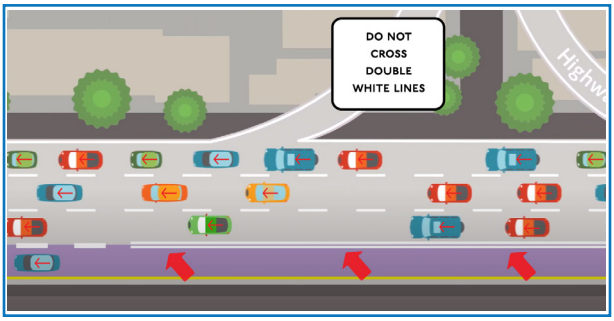
WHAT IS NEW FOR DRIVERS ON I-680 CONTRA COSTA IN AUGUST 2020?

In August 2020, additional High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane capacity is opening on I-680 southbound between Treat Blvd. and Rudgear Rd. When the new roadway opens, it will create a 25-mile carpool facility from Marina Vista Blvd. to Alcosta Blvd. where 2+ person carpools can travel more reliability than in general purpose lanes. When the additional carpool lane capacity opens, the HOV-2 lane will be buffered from SR-242 to Treat Blvd. and from Rudgear Rd. to Stone Valley Rd.



WHAT ARE BUFFERS AND WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

Buffers are double-white lines between the far-left HOV lane and the next general-purpose lane. It is illegal to cross double white lines at any time.



WHY ARE THERE BUFFERS?

The buffers improve traffic flow and safety by limiting merges between lanes in congested areas. The buffers require drivers to change lanes prior to congested spots to keep traffic flowing more smoothly and safely.

WHERE ARE THE BUFFERS?

The far-left lane is buffered from SR-242 to Treat Blvd. and from Rudgear Rd. to Stone Valley Rd.

WHAT IS THE FINE FOR CROSSING THE BUFFERS?

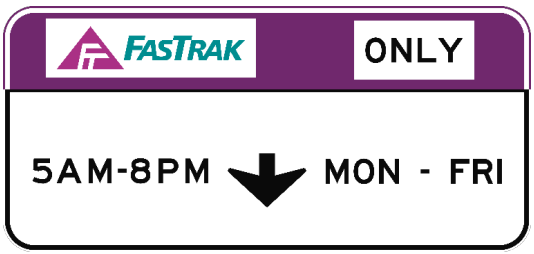
Crossing double white lines is a violation of California Vehicle Code 21460 (b). Drivers crossing double white lines will be subject to fines and may get one point assessed on their driving record as well.

HOW DO I KNOW WHEN TO EXIT THE FAR-LEFT LANE TO REACH MY HIGHWAY EXIT?

To exit the far-left lane, median barrier signs explain where to access highway exits.

WHAT ARE THE HOURS OF THE HOV-2 LANES?

Starting August 2020, the southbound I-680 carpool lanes will operate weekdays from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. From Marina Vista Ave. to Rudgear Rd., only 2-person carpools and eligible clean air vehicles can use the far-left lane during these hours Monday - Friday. From Rudgear Rd. to Alcosta Blvd. 2-person carpools can use the lanes for free on weekdays between 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., while other types of drivers can choose to pay full or half-price tolls to use the lanes.



WHY DO THE SIGNS SAY FASTRAK®?

FasTrak signs are on the southbound HOV-2 lane from Marina Vista Ave. to Rudgear Rd. in preparation for tolling to start in early 2021. When tolling starts, solo drivers will have the choice to pay tolls to use the lanes that previously were available only to carpools and eligible clean air vehicles. Until tolling starts, many of the signs will say that toll testing is happening.

DO I NEED FASTRAK TO BE IN THE HOV-2 LANE FROM MARINA VISTA AVE TO RUDGEAR RD BEFORE TOLLING STARTS?

No, but drivers continuing south past Rudgear Rd. need a FasTrak to use the far-left lane, which operates as an express lane southbound from Rudgear Rd. to Alcosta Blvd. and northbound from Alcosta Blvd. to Livorna Rd. Drivers without a FasTrak in this section of I-680 will receive toll violations.

WHAT FASTRAK DO I NEED TO BE IN THE EXPRESS LANES BETWEEN RUDGEAR RD AND ALCOSTA BLVD?

Solo drivers can use a standard FasTrak toll tag or a FasTrak Flex® toll tag set in the "1" position to pay tolls to use these lanes during operating hours. To travel toll-free, carpoolers must use a FasTrak Flex toll tag set in the 2 or 3+ position, based on the number of people in the car to travel toll free. Eligible clean air vehicles must use a FasTrak CAV toll tag set in the 1, 2 or 3+ position based on the number of people in the car to pay half-price tolls or travel toll free.

WHEN WILL TOLLING START SOUTHBOUND FROM MARINA VISTA AVE TO RUDGEAR RD?

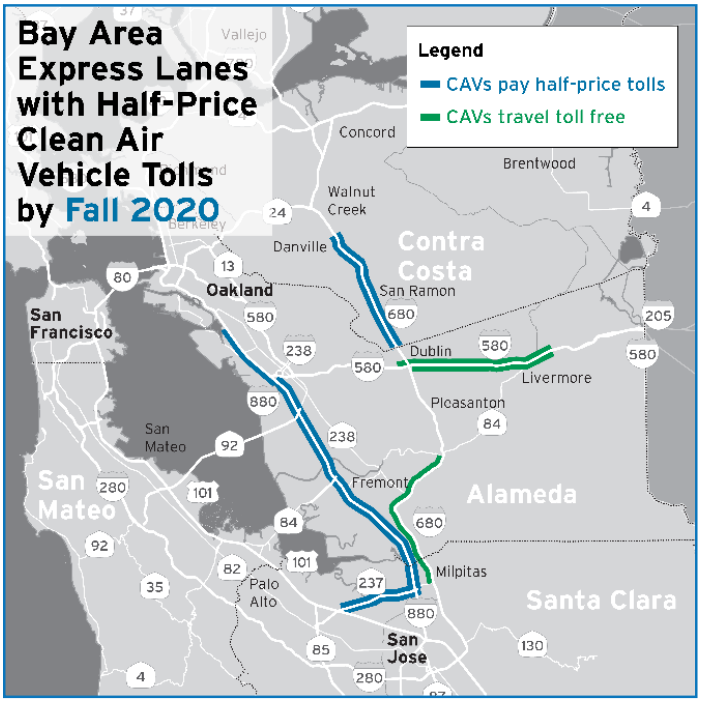
Tolling will start in early 2021. Once tolling begins, 2-person carpools can use the lane toll free with a FasTrak Flex® toll tag set to the number of people inside the vehicle. Once tolling begins, solo drivers can choose to pay tolls to use the lanes. Eligible CAVs with FasTrak CAV toll tags can pay half-price tolls to use the lanes.

WHEN TOLLING STARTS, WHAT FASTRAK DO I USE IN THE LANES FROM MARINA VISTA AVE TO RUDGEAR RD?

The tolling rules that apply between Rudgear Rd. and Alcosta Blvd. will apply from Marina Vista Ave. to Rudgear Rd. when tolling starts in the northern portion.

WHAT IS NEW FOR CLEAN AIR VEHICLES ON I-680 CONTRA COSTA?

As of fall 2020, single-occupant eligible Clean Air Vehicles (CAVs) pay half-price tolls on the SR-237, I-880 and I-680 Contra Costa express lanes. Eventually, single-occupant eligible CAVs will pay half-price tolls on all Bay Area Express Lanes.



Fall 2020

Future

WHY ARE CAVS CHARGED HALF-PRICE TOLLS ON BAY AREA EXPRESS LANES?

The HOV lanes are currently not performing well and carpools and clean air vehicles are not getting much travel time advantage. The increasing number of CAVs in the Bay Area adds pressure on HOV and express lanes to provide better travel times. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions, as well as increasing vehicle occupancy and managing traffic demand are important goals. As a result, the CAV toll has been set to half of the full toll to support all goals. The policy is also consistent with Bay Area Bridges.

WHAT TOLL TAG DO ELIGIBLE CAV DRIVERS NEED?

Eligible CAVs must use a FasTrak® CAV toll tag to receive the discounted tolls when traveling solo.

WHY CARPOOL?

Carpoolers are able to use I-680 HOV-2 lanes and get a more reliable trip than drivers in the general-purpose lanes. 2-person carpools also travel toll-free on the I-680 Contra Costa Express Lanes between Walnut Creek and San Ramon, as well as on the I-580 and I-680 Sunol Express Lanes. Carpoolers also travel toll-free or pay half-price tolls on the SR-237 Express Lanes and I-880 Express Lanes.

Visit carpool.511.org to register to match for a carpool and earn points for every trip through the regional online system, Merge (Merge.511.org). Points can be redeemed for e-gift cards or donations to favorite charities. Carpool.511.org also explains how to match through the carpooling apps, Waze/Waze Carpool and Scoop. Carpooling makes the drive more enjoyable and you can feel good doing a part to improve air quality and reduce traffic.

DURING COVID-19, HOW DO I CARPOOL SAFELY?

Find a consistent carpool partner through merge.511.org, wear a mask, allow air circulation in the vehicle, disinfect frequently-touched car surfaces, have the passenger sit in the back passenger seat, and use hand sanitizer when entering and after exiting the vehicle. Find tips for safe carpooling at carpool.511.org.

WILL THIS ALWAYS BE A 2-PERSON CARPOOL LANE?

There are no plans at this time to increase the carpool occupancy requirement on I-680 to 3 people. As of fall 2020, the I-880 and SR-237 Express Lanes require 3 people in the vehicle to travel toll free, while 2-person carpools pay half-price tolls.

BAY AREA EXPRESS LANES

Learn more at expresslanes.511.org