



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### MAJOR IMPROVEMENTS COMING TO I-5 IN STOCKTON – INCLUDING CITY'S FIRST CARPOOL LANES

**STOCKTON** -- Caltrans today announced major improvements will be made to Stockton's highways, including construction of the city's first carpool lanes and installation of reinforced concrete on all six lanes of I-5 to give motorists a smoother, safer ride to last for decades.

"This project will encourage commuters to carpool and use transit, which will help reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality," said Acting Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "New reinforced concrete along Interstate 5 will also give motorists a smoother and safer ride to last for decades."

The new car pool lanes will be installed on an eight-mile section of Interstate 5 between Charter Way/Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Hammer Lane. In addition to 16 miles of new carpool lanes (eight miles in each direction), Caltrans will completely reconstruct all six lanes of I-5 with reinforced concrete pavement on a four-mile section between Country Club Boulevard and Hammer Lane. The new pavement is expected to last 40 years and save taxpayers money because of lower maintenance costs.

Caltrans will also add new, specialized lanes called auxiliary lanes between Hammer Lane and March Lane. An auxiliary lane – the extra lane constructed between interchanges – makes it easier and safer for drivers to get on and off a highway and also helps reduce traffic congestion. Soundwalls will be built to reduce noise near the freeway.

The \$122 million Interstate 5 North Stockton Improvement Project (Phase I) received \$42 million in funding from Proposition 1B, a \$19.9 billion transportation bond approved by voters in 2006. To date, the state has allocated more than \$9 billion in Proposition 1B funds.

The average daily traffic volume along I-5 in Stockton can surpass 130,000 vehicles.

The project is expected to be completed by the fall of 2015.

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