



TA Board of Directors
Meeting of May 7, 2026

Correspondence as of April 24, 2026

Subject

1. Huzzah, HOV lane conversion rather than a lane addition.

From: [Giuliano](#)
To: [cacsecretary \[@smcta.com\]](mailto:cacsecretary [@smcta.com]); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Huzzah, HOV lane conversion rather than a lane addition.
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 6:05:06 PM

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MTC announced last week that starting this week that construction will start on a project to convert a GP lane to an HOV lane, <https://mtc.ca.gov/news/work-start-i-580-carpool-lane-extension-oakland>. Of particular note is the recognition that this is a:

- comparatively low-cost capital projects
- to help move more people in fewer cars through the Bay Bridge corridor;
- speed travel times and
- improve schedule reliability for bus riders;
- and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

What's not to like: cheaper, fewer cars/trips, faster, more reliable, and it reduces climate impact.

We need to come to the same conclusion for future San Mateo County projects. In particular, we need to stop looking at adding a lane for the 101 Managed Lane north of 380 project, to stop the 101/92 Direct Connector project which simply adds lane(s) and other car capacity, and similar projects in the pipeline.

The funds saved can then be redirected to highway projects that will actually reduce congestion and increase safety. For example:

- Add dedicated mass and active transit lanes to highway projects like the ECR Grand Boulevard Initiative
- Fill the funding gap for the Broadway Grade Separation, which will reduce car congestion and increase safety for everyone.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) today announced that construction work will begin next week on a six-month project to convert the far-left lane of westbound Interstate 580 to a high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lane from just east of the Piedmont Avenue undercrossing in Oakland to the start of the existing westbound carpool lane near the foot of the MacArthur Maze.

The 2.3-mile project — undertaken in partnership with Caltrans and the Alameda County Transportation Commission — marks the Bay Area's first conversion of a general-purpose lane to a carpool lane. This is a key element of MTC's [Bay Bridge Forward](#) initiative to fund comparatively low-cost capital projects to help move more people in fewer cars through the Bay Bridge corridor; speed travel times and improve schedule reliability for bus riders; and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Beginning next Monday, April 20, drivers headed westbound on I-580 can expect

to see crews installing concrete K-rails to protect workers and equipment from moving traffic. Because most work will take place during the overnight hours, drivers can expect night-time lane closures over the next few months. Once the project is completed this fall, use of the left lane in this segment of westbound I-580 will be restricted to buses and other vehicles with three or more occupants on weekdays from 5 a.m. to 10 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Thank you,

giuliano

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Drive a bike a bit more often and cars a bit less. You'll be healthier and happier, and so will our world.