

# I-580 Express Lanes



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are the I-580 Express Lanes?

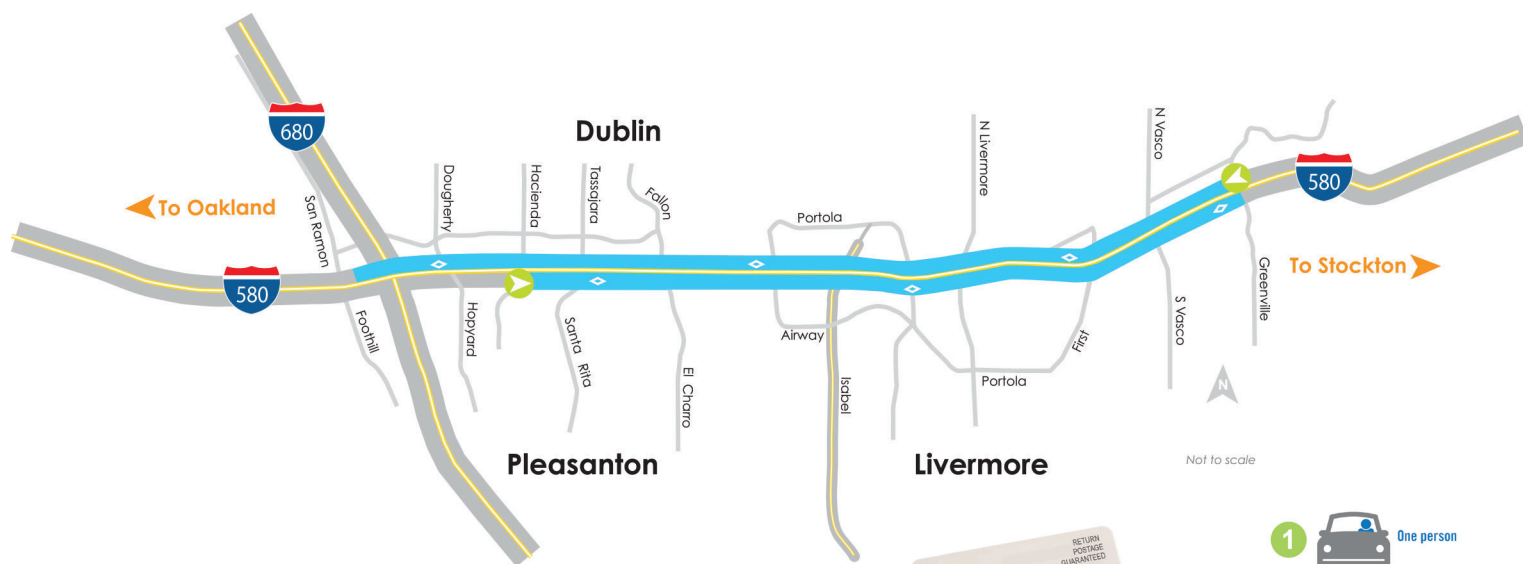
The I-580 Express Lanes are specially designed lanes created to improve the commute for all motorists along the approximately 14-mile Tri-Valley corridor in Alameda County through Dublin, Pleasanton and Livermore. The I-580 Express Lanes opened in February 2016.

The I-580 Express Lanes are operated by the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) and are funded with federal, regional and local dollars, including voter-approved Measure B. They are part of the Bay Area Express Lanes, a network that will include 550 miles of express lanes by 2035.

### What are the benefits of the I-580 Express Lanes?

Using proven technology, engineering expertise and dynamic pricing, the I-580 Express Lanes maximize the efficiency of the corridor. The express lanes encourage carpooling and clean-air vehicles by offering toll-free use for all vehicles eligible to use carpool lanes, as long as they carry a FasTrak® Flex toll tag. By offering additional capacity on the express lanes to solo drivers willing to pay a toll, commuters in all lanes on I-580 can now spend less time in stop-and-start traffic, saving fuel and vehicle maintenance costs.

### Where are the I-580 Express Lanes?



### What do I need to use the express lanes?

A FasTrak or FasTrak Flex toll tag is required for ALL express lane users. Get yours at [www.BayAreaFasTrak.org](http://www.BayAreaFasTrak.org)



### Who can use the express lanes?

Carpools, vanpools, motorcycles, buses and eligible clean-air vehicles can use the express lanes toll-free anytime. Simply set your FasTrak Flex toll tag to **2** or **3+**, and get moving. Solo drivers can also use the express lanes by paying a toll using a FasTrak or FasTrak Flex toll tag set to **1** to take advantage of more reliable travel times.

**A smart, reliable choice**

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### When are the express lanes available for use?

The I-580 Express Lanes will operate Monday – Friday from 5am to 8pm.

### How do I enter and exit the express lanes?

The I-580 Express Lanes offer commuters near-continuous access, meaning vehicles equipped with FasTrak or FasTrak Flex can enter or exit the lanes nearly anywhere along the corridor. A double solid white line is used to show an area where it is prohibited to enter or exit the lanes. Where access is limited (eastbound between Hacienda and Fallon/El Charro, and westbound between Hacienda and San Ramon), special signage and lane striping help direct drivers to express lane entry and exit points.

### How do solo drivers pay tolls?

Overhead electronic signs display the current toll for solo drivers. When a FasTrak-equipped vehicle passes under a reader, the correct toll is automatically deducted from the driver's prepaid FasTrak account. Readers are spaced approximately one mile apart throughout the corridor. The operation is fully electronic. There are no tollbooths, and no stopping is required.

### How much does it cost for solo drivers to use the express lanes?

To provide maximum efficiency, flexibility and accuracy, the toll amount varies based on changing traffic conditions and trip length. However, solo drivers will always pay the toll displayed on the overhead sign when they first enter an express lane. Your rate is locked in at the beginning of your trip when you choose to enter the express lanes, regardless of changes in toll rates during travel. Your monthly FasTrak statement will show the start and end point of each express lane trip and the corresponding amount billed to your account.

### Why do prices change on express lanes?

Prices change to keep traffic moving smoothly and to maintain reliable speeds. This process is called dynamic pricing. As congestion increases in the express lanes, the toll increases (which discourages some solo drivers from choosing to enter the express lanes). As congestion subsides, the cost of the toll goes down (which encourages more solo drivers to enter the express lanes).

### How will correct use of the express lanes be enforced?

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) is responsible for enforcement on the I-580 Express Lanes, including toll and HOV/carpool laws. All express lanes users are required to have a FasTrak toll tag in their vehicle and have a valid FasTrak account. A combination of electronic and visual assessment will be used to identify express lane "cheaters," who will be pulled over and cited or receive a toll evasion violation in the mail.

### How will the toll revenue be used?

Toll revenues are used first to pay for operating and maintaining the I-580 Express Lanes. Remaining funds will be used for additional transportation projects and transit operations along the I-580 corridor, including express buses and other transit service.

Learn more at [www.AlamedaCTC.org/580Express](http://www.AlamedaCTC.org/580Express)

Questions: Call 510.208.7499

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