

Managed Lanes Updates

Mega Region Working Group
June 20, 2025

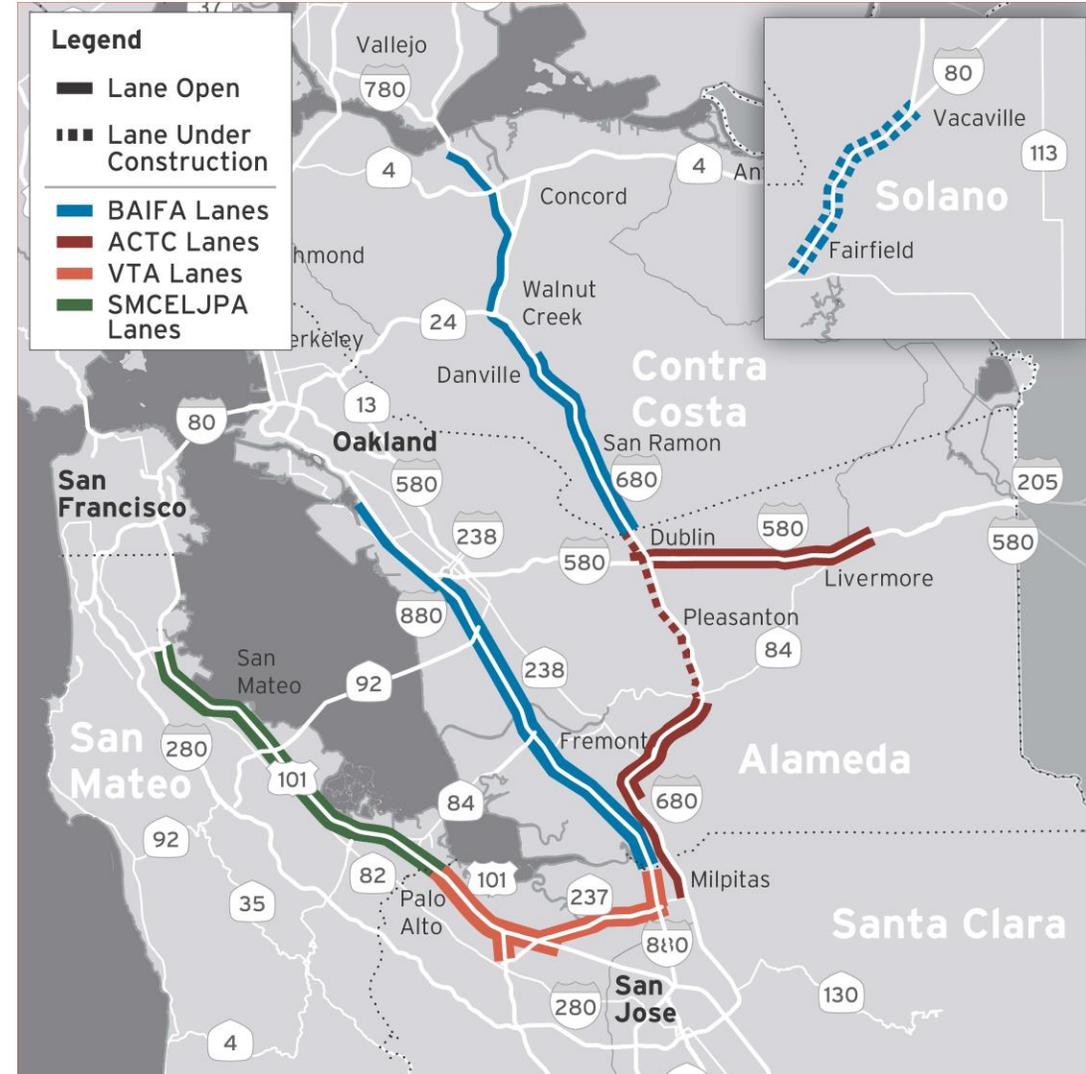


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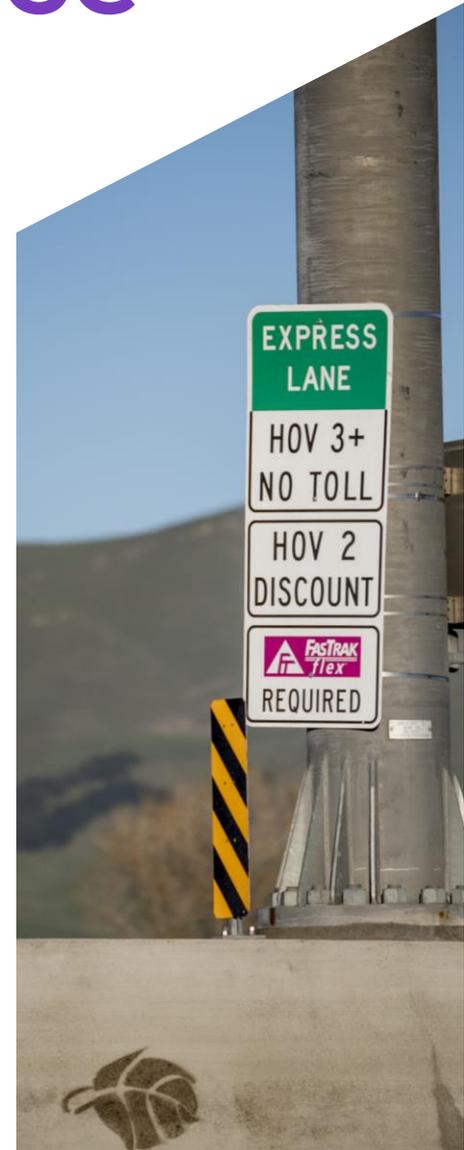
Bay Area Express Lanes Network

- 270 Lane Miles In Ops or Under Construction
- BAIFA Express Lanes
 - I-680 in Contra Costa County (2017, 2021, 2028)
 - I-880 in Alameda County (2020)
 - I-80 in Solano County (Fall 2025)
- Express Lanes Ops Supported by BAIFA
 - I-580, I-680 in Alameda County
 - US 101 in San Mateo County
- Partner Collaboration
- FasTrak Regional Customer Service Center for all Operators



BAIFA's Proposed Toll Ordinance Changes for 2025

- Extend BAIFA's toll policy to the I-80 Express Lanes in Solano County, which are scheduled to open in Fall 2025
- Increase the allowable timeframe and parameters for pilot projects on express lanes
- Increase the minimum toll per zone from \$0.50 to \$0.75 for all BAIFA Express Lanes to cover increased costs
- Clarify that the Clean Air Vehicle (CAV) discount will end in Sep-2025, unless federal law is amended prior to that date
- Adjust the boundaries of the toll zones on southbound I-680 to reflect the gap closure between BAIFA's and Alameda CTC's express lanes on I-680.



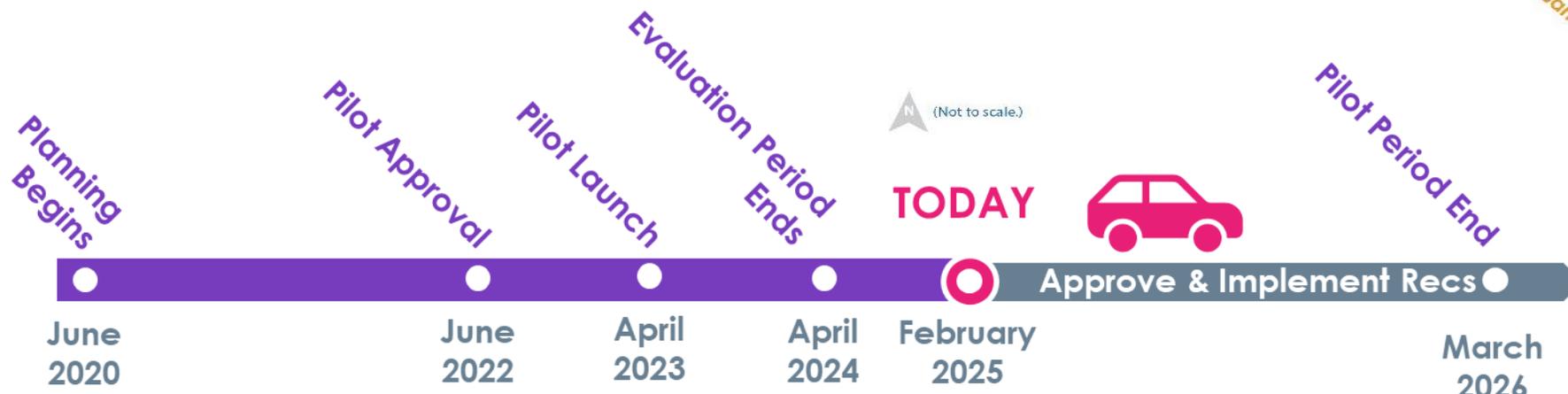
EXPRESS LANES

STARTSM

Pilot Program Update

Pilot Scope

- Concept grew out of I-880 outreach & Policy Advisory Council input
- Toll discount of 50% or more in the I-880 Express Lanes
- Eligibility requirements (same as Clipper® START)
 - Proof of household income at or below 200% Federal poverty level
 - Bay Area mailing address
 - Proof of identity
- Toll discount applied to FasTrak® account
- 12-month evaluation period (April 2023 – March 2024)



Pilot Goals & Results

Program Goals

Increase access to the I-880 express lanes

Customers have a **good experience** - registering and using lanes

Maintain **operational integrity** - speed, reliability, and efficiency

Results

INCREASED ACCESS?

- **Yes**, for those who joined
- **Yes**, program design lowers the bar to express lane entry for targeted group
- **No**, for low-income households broadly

GOOD EXPERIENCE?

- **Yes**, participants found program valuable and easy to use
- **No**, two-step process & FasTrak account concerns contribute to low enrollment
- **Yes**, program enrollment decreased the rate of customer violations

OPERATIONAL INTEGRITY?

- **Mixed**, operating costs are falling but cost to provide benefit will remain higher than the benefit for the next year and likely beyond
- **Yes**, traffic operations were not negatively affected

Additional Findings

INCREASED ACCESS?

Potential customers are a smaller group than expected

- Regular I-880 drivers with express lane use-cases (e.g., in a rush)
- Willing to spend money instead of using free adjacent lane
- Willing to get and manage a FasTrak account

GOOD EXPERIENCE?

FasTrak could be a barrier for the potential customer base

- A third of approved applicants did not take final step to enroll & link FasTrak
- Possible concerns over account management

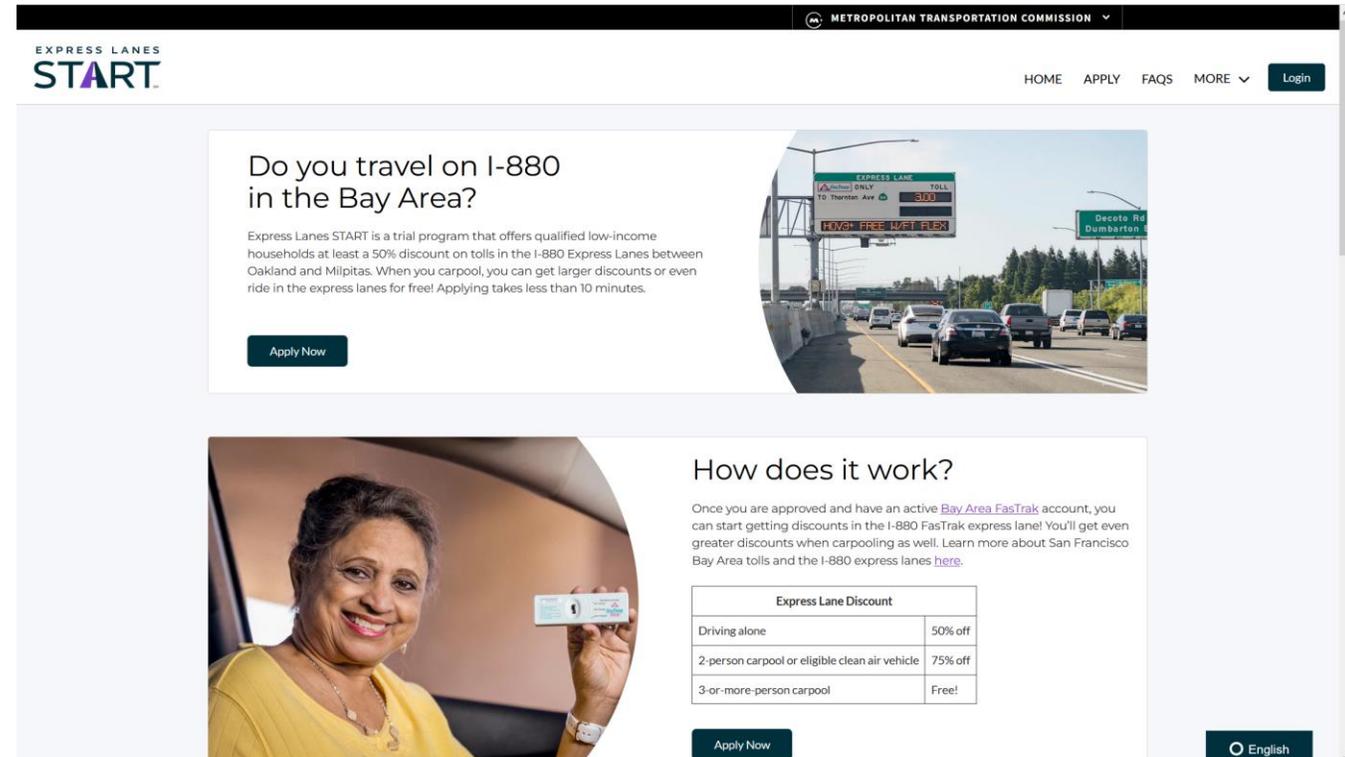
OPERATIONAL INTEGRITY?

Preliminary evidence that program may help reduce violation rate

- For participants who had FasTrak before the pilot, 22% fewer incurred I-880 express lane violations in the pilot year than in the prior year

Recently Completed Activities

- Website Enhancements
- Surveys & Analysis
 - FastTrak® & violations
- Partnerships & Coordination



The screenshot shows the Express Lanes START website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo, 'EXPRESS LANES START', and links for 'HOME', 'APPLY', 'FAQS', 'MORE', and a 'Login' button. The main content area features a survey titled 'Do you travel on I-880 in the Bay Area?' with a description of the program and an 'Apply Now' button. Below this is a section titled 'How does it work?' with a photo of a woman holding a FasTrak card and a table of discounts. The table is as follows:

Express Lane Discount	
Driving alone	50% off
2-person carpool or eligible clean air vehicle	75% off
3-or-more-person carpool	Free!

At the bottom right of the page, there is an 'English' language selector button.

Ongoing & Upcoming Activities

- Eligibility renewals for existing customers
- Implement key recommendations review of eligibility & enrollment
- Coordinate with efforts to make FasTrak more accessible
- Explore whether to augment verifier support services for applicants
- Develop new advertising strategies
- Fine-tune in-person outreach
- Deploy re-targeting ads to attract users from other benefit programs
- Improve cross-links from other MTC websites (e.g., 511.org)
- Compare Bay Area means-based programs to inform future discussions on regional approach

Next Steps

- Expand EL-Start Pilot Duration
- Expand Pilot to I-80 Express Lanes
- Expand Partnerships





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For more information visit:
<https://mtc.ca.gov/express-lanes-policies>