

# County of Santa Clara

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Central Expressway Project Gets Going Drivers to Expect Delays at De La Cruz**

SAN JOSE, CALIF.— A Measure B traffic congestion relief project gets underway this week on Central Expressway with \$5.5 million in improvements at De La Cruz Boulevard, Lafayette Street, and Bowers Avenue. The project adds cross street turn lanes at Lafayette and Bowers, and the HOV lane on Central Expressway will be extended from Scott Boulevard through De La Cruz to create a continuous connection to the HOV ramp meter bypass at Highway 101.

“Extending the HOV lane along Central Expressway will smooth out the commute for many drivers,” said Michael Murdter, Director of the Roads & Airports Department.

The project includes electrical and fiber optic communication system improvements to allow for remote video traffic monitoring and signal timing adjustments from the county’s traffic operation center. As a finishing touch, the project includes pavement repairs and resurfacing with recycled tire crumb rubber modified asphalt.

Financing for the long-planned project was achieved by cobbling together a variety of funding sources. The primary funding source, Measure B, is being augmented by a federal grant and traffic impact fees generated by the City of Santa Clara and the City of San Jose.

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The construction is expected to last through January 2006. During this time there will be intervals of construction activity that will result in some traffic delay. While the project includes design elements such as temporary provisions for traffic detection to enable continued automatic operation of the traffic signals, some portions of the work will necessitate more traffic impacts. The portion of Central Expressway passing under the railroad structure east of Lafayette Street, in particular, requires realignment and temporary reduction of traffic lanes.

Currently, Central Expressway has two lanes in each direction, or four total lanes. During pavement repairs work east of Lafayette, the expressway will be reduced to three lanes. Two lanes will be maintained eastbound, and one lane will be provided westbound. This operation is planned to be in effect as early as the first week in June through November.

During the time lanes are realigned and reduced, commuters can expect congested conditions at De La Cruz, and may want to consider alternate routes.

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