



# SMC 101 Express Lanes Project Update

Construction

Express Lanes Management

- Toll Policy
- Equity Program

North Fair Oaks Community Council

February 25, 2021

**SAN MATEO 101**  
**EXPRESS LANES PROJECT**  
**OVERVIEW**



SMC Express Lanes JPA



## **Construction:**

- Purpose of the Express Lane
- What is an Express Lane?
- Timing

# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT THE PURPOSE



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Jobs, housing and population growth continues

2010-2040 projections:

- Bay Area:
  - 1.3 Million new jobs
  - 820,000 new housing units
- San Mateo:
  - 134,000 new jobs
  - 60,000 new housing units

No incentive to share a ride

Cars avoid the freeway

The congestion on 101 has been bad and will continue to get worse.

Data from Plan Bay Area 2040.

**SAN MATEO 101**  
**EXPRESS LANES PROJECT**  
**BIG PICTURE**



Multiple projects working to solve the problem

The capacity increasing **Caltrain Electrification Project**

New **regional express bus service** on the 101 corridor

**Santa Clara County Express Lanes on 101** seamlessly connecting to San Mateo 101 Express Lanes

Planning underway to extend the new 101 Express Lanes to the San Francisco County Line

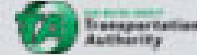
Increased **park-and-ride lots**, and improvements to existing lots

Cities and Counties are working to improve and incentivize **ridesharing** and **public transit use**

**SAN MATEO 101**  
**EXPRESS LANES PROJECT**  
**EXPRESS LANE DEFINITIONS**



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**General Purpose Lane:** a regular highway lane.

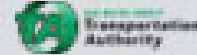
**Carpool Lane/High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane:** a highway lane that can only be used when there is more than one person in the car. Some Carpool/HOV lanes require 2 people and others require 3 people.

**Express Lane:** a highway lane which buses, carpools, and motorcycles access for free. Other vehicles, like cars with just one person, pay a toll that goes up or down depending on how crowded the lane is.

# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT PROJECT UPDATES



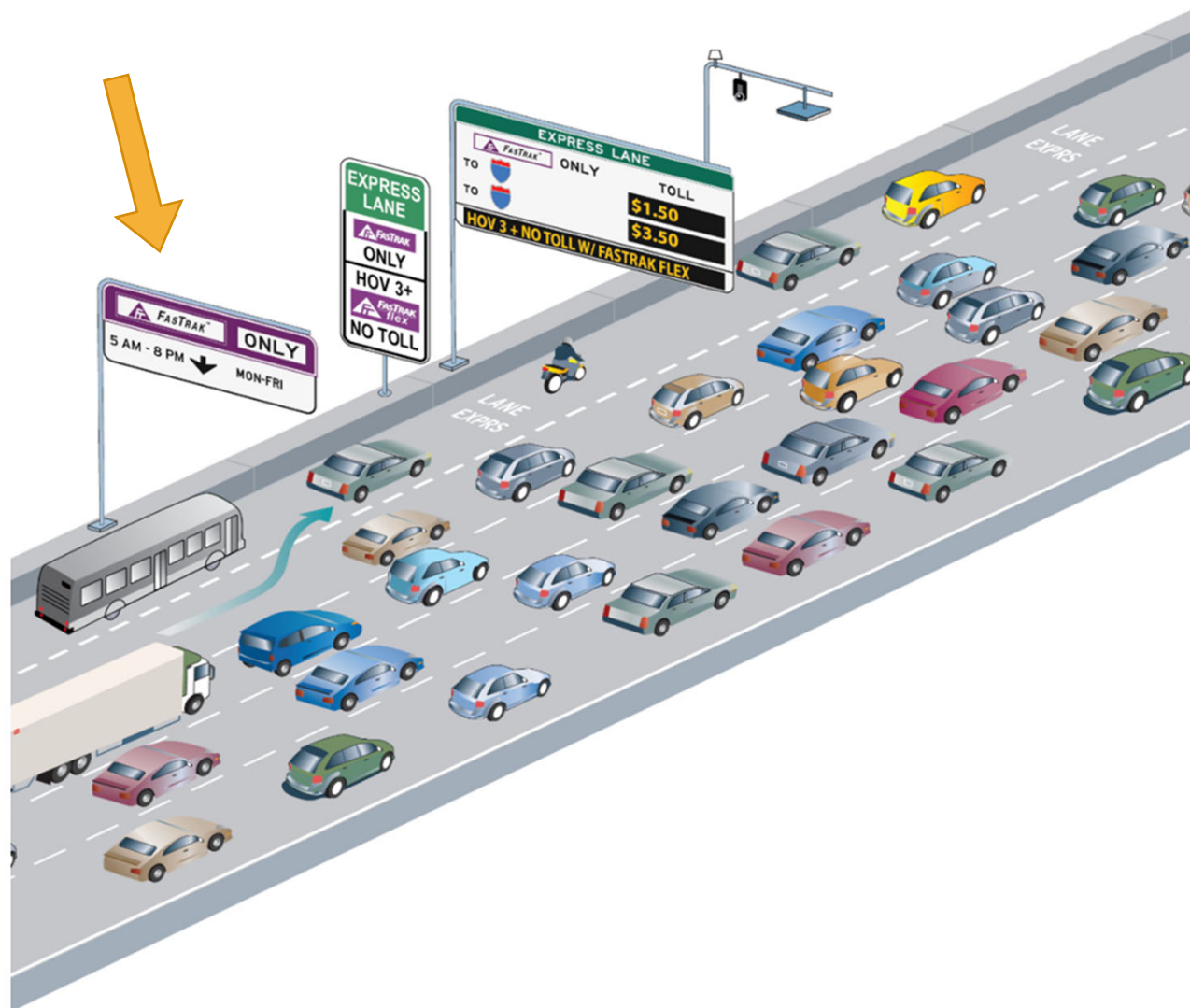
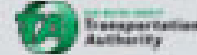
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# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT EXPRESS LANE COMPONENTS



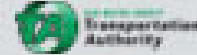
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**SAN MATEO 101**  
**EXPRESS LANES PROJECT**  
**TOLL RATE SIGN**



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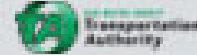




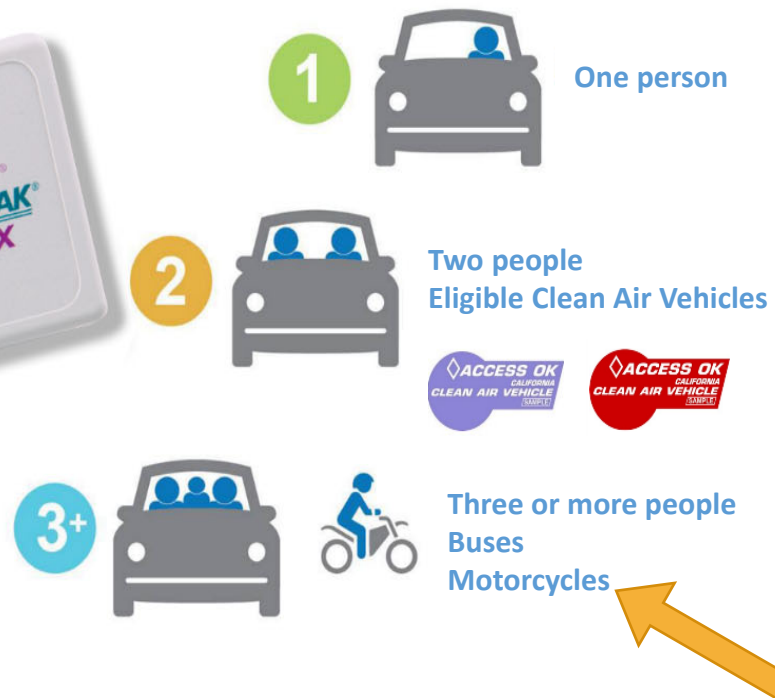
**SAN MATEO 101**  
**EXPRESS LANES PROJECT**  
**FASTRAK® FLEX IS THE KEY**



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**Set the switch, take your trip!**



Please visit [bayareafastrak.org](http://bayareafastrak.org) for more information

# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT PUBLIC INFORMATION



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[101express.com](http://101express.com)

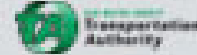
The screenshot shows the Caltrans website page for the San Mateo 101 Express Lanes Project. The page includes a navigation bar with links for 'Travel', 'Work with Caltrans', 'Programs', 'Caltrans Near Me', and 'Search'. The main content area is titled 'Project Information' and contains an accessibility statement, a list of links for more information in English, Spanish, and Chinese, and a brief description of the project. Below the text is a diagram titled 'SM 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT HOW AN EXPRESS LANE OPERATES' which illustrates the lane's operation with bullet points: 'Buses and 3+ carpools drive for free', 'Other drivers can choose to pay', 'Electronic toll collection', and 'Dynamic tolls (congestion pricing) keep lane free flowing'.

- Sign up for email updates by emailing [101express@dot.ca.gov](mailto:101express@dot.ca.gov) with the subject line “weekly” or “quarterly”
- For questions, contact Caltrans PIO Alejandro Lopez at (510) 385-6856 or [101express@dot.ca.gov](mailto:101express@dot.ca.gov)

**SAN MATEO 101**  
**EXPRESS LANES PROJECT**  
**OVERVIEW**



SMC Express Lanes JPA



# Express Lanes Management

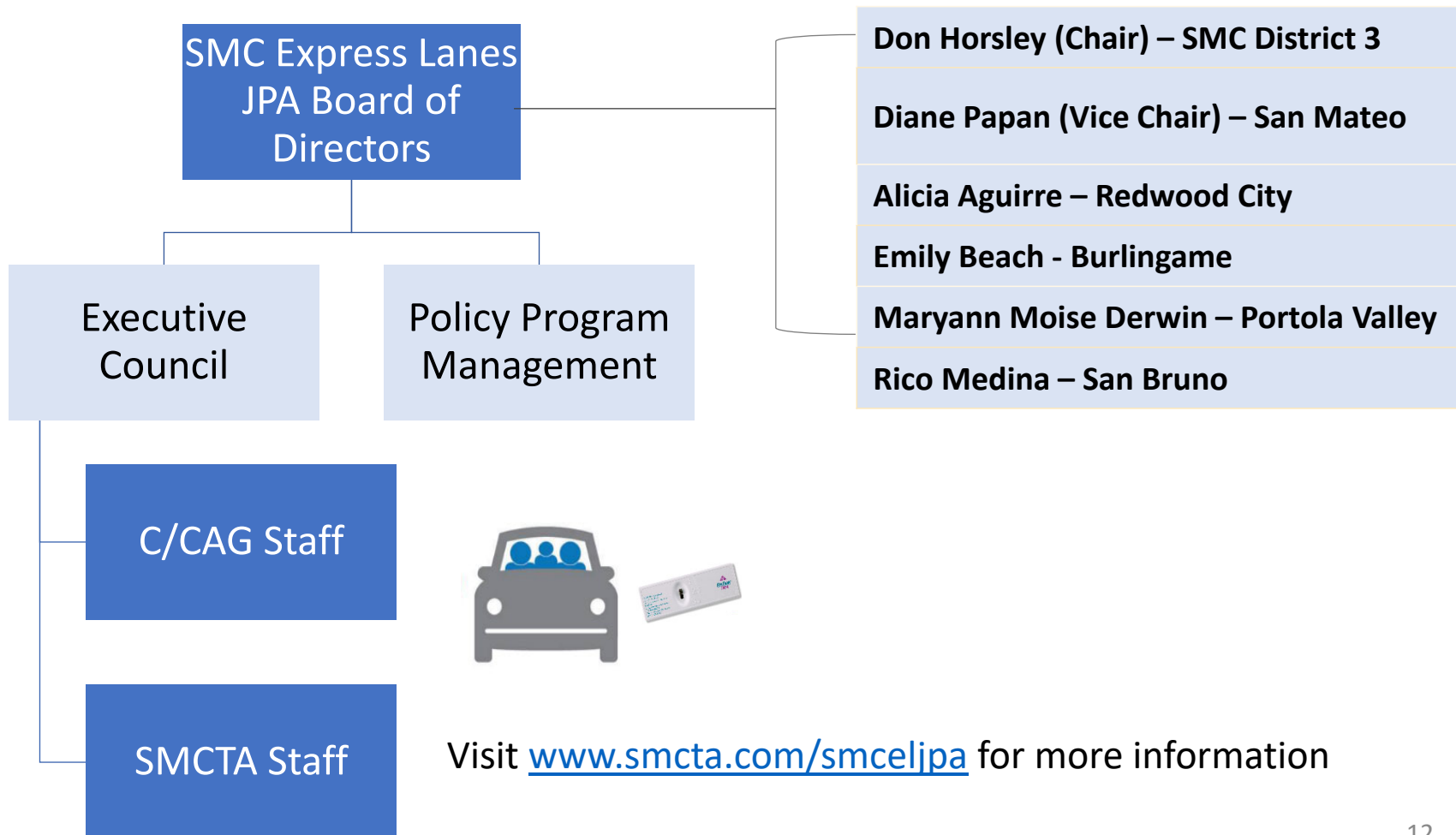
# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT GOVERNANCE



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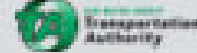
## San Mateo County Express Lanes Joint Powers Authority (SMCEL-JPA)



# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT TOLL POLICY



SMC Express Lanes JPA



- The SMCEL-JPA Board will establish tolling rules and policies through the adoption of a toll ordinance in the Summer 2021.
- The toll ordinance will include:
  - Pricing
  - Discounts
  - Enforcement
- Submit your comments and look for updates at [www.smcta.com/101Toll](http://www.smcta.com/101Toll).

For questions regarding toll policy, contact the SM 101 Express Lanes Policy Program Manager, Matt Click at [mclick@hntb.com](mailto:mclick@hntb.com)



# Equity Program Study

- Develop a Pilot Equity Program that **invests** toll revenue in **historically underserved communities** in San Mateo County
- The Program should be flexible and can evolve over time in response to changing community needs
- Funding:
  - \$1 Million available in first year
  - \$600,000 annually in subsequent years

# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT EQUITY PROGRAM STUDY



## Desired Outcomes



Flexible and adaptive to changing needs and feedback.



Encourage mode shift to high-occupancy modes.



Strategies benefit underserved communities who live near or use the lanes.



Supports the Express Lanes benefits and goals (mobility, travel time, and reliability).



Program reflects input from historically disadvantaged communities.



Improve active transportation network adjacent to the corridor.



Strategies are replicable and could be expanded regionally.

# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT EQUITY PROGRAM STUDY

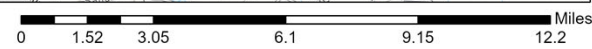
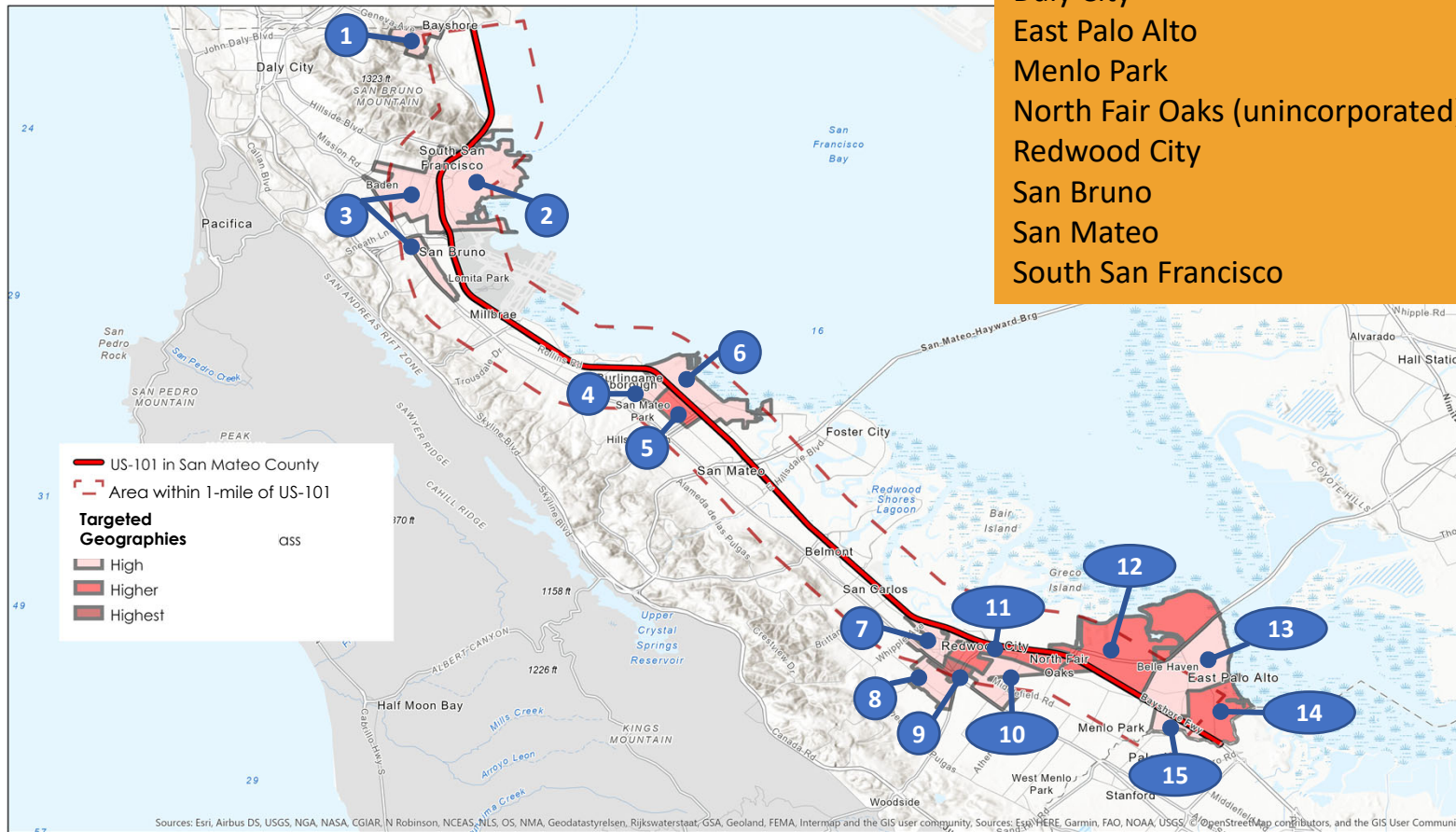


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## 15 Studied Targeted Geographies

Includes portions of the following cities:  
 Daly City  
 East Palo Alto  
 Menlo Park  
 North Fair Oaks (unincorporated)  
 Redwood City  
 San Bruno  
 San Mateo  
 South San Francisco







# Identifying Barriers to Travel



Do not own or have access to a car for regular use



Do not have access to a credit card or bank account



Congestion on US-101 limits access to job opportunities



Limited access to the internet and/or a smart phone



Have a disability that makes traveling by transit difficult or impossible



Feel unsafe walking or biking on streets close to US-101



# Phase 1 Community Engagement

## Key takeaways

### Mobility challenges facing communities:

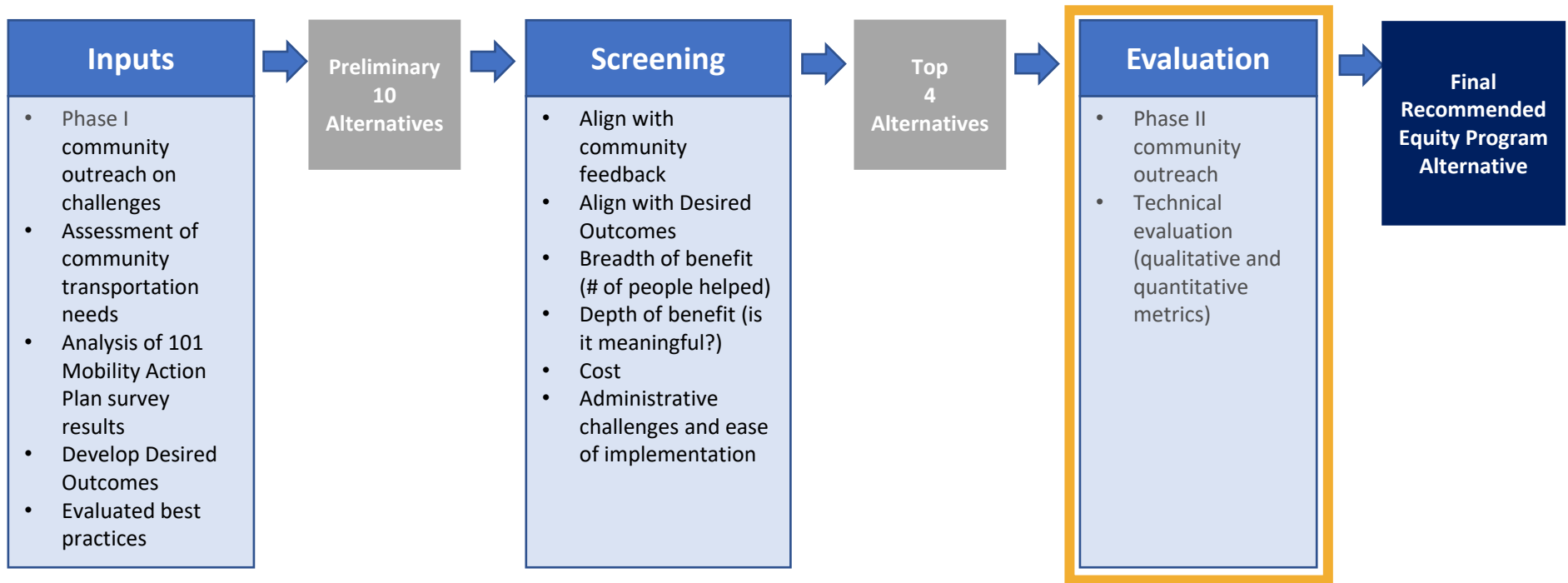
- Unreliable public transportation
- Cost of transportation
- Too much traffic

### Equity program recommendations:

- Toll subsidies or other programs to help low-income drivers use the lanes
- More frequent and reliable public transportation
- Improved sidewalk and bicycle infrastructure
- Discounted or free transit passes
- Any program for individual benefits should be relatively easy to access



# Alternatives Development Process



We are here

**SAN MATEO 101**  
**EXPRESS LANES PROJECT**  
**EQUITY PROGRAM STUDY**



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# Alternative #1: Express Lane Toll Subsidy

## Pre-loaded \$70 Toll Tags

- Provide one-time benefit of a pre-loaded toll tags to qualifying households
- \$50 cash benefit plus \$20 deposit.
- Toll tags can be reloaded online (with a credit or debit card), by mail, or at cash payment locations
- 7,000+ households could be served annually



Get FasTrak

» MY ACCOUNT » OVERVIEW

CURRENT BALANCE

\$50.00

REPLENISHMENT AMOUNT : \$25.00

THRESHOLD AMOUNT : \$15.00

[ADD FUNDS](#)



## Alternative #2: Transit Subsidy

### **\$50 Cash-On-Clipper Benefit**

- Provide \$50 per year to eligible individuals as cash value on a Clipper Card for use on any regional transit service that accepts payment via Clipper
- 10,000 individuals could be served annually





## Alternative #3: Place-Based Improvements

### Biking, Walking, & Transit Safety Improvements

- Build safety improvements in historically disadvantaged communities in San Mateo County on the 101 Corridor
- Example projects:
  - Bike lanes, ADA ramps, new/modified traffic signals, bus shelters, intersection improvements
- Communities could apply for the funding





## Alternative #4: Carpool Rewards Program

### Cash Benefit for Carpool Trips

- Provide carpool cash benefit up to \$50 per year for qualifying individuals
- Both drivers and passengers eligible
- 10,000+ individuals could be served annually





# Next Steps

## Selection of a Preferred Alternative

- Analyze the four alternatives
- Solicit community and stakeholder input
- Select and recommend preferred alternative to JPA Board
- **JPA Board adoption: May 2021**
- Develop implementation plan





# Virtual Community Meeting

**When: Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 5:30-6:30 p.m.**

- Opportunity for the public to provide input
- Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish, Cantonese & Mandarin
- Zoom and Call-in options to join, <https://bit.ly/SMC101equity>
- Additional details can be found at: [www.smcta.com/101equity](http://www.smcta.com/101equity)



## Discussion Questions

- Which alternative would best meet the needs of the historically underserved communities you serve?
- Is there something you would change to make one (or all) of the alternatives more effective?
- What other types of programs or investments would be beneficial?
- What barriers could interfere with this program reaching those who need it the most?

# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT



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## Contact Information

### Toll Policy & Equity Study

 [smcta.com/101toll](https://smcta.com/101toll)

 [smcta.com/101equity](https://smcta.com/101equity)


 [equity@smcexpresslanes.org](mailto:equity@smcexpresslanes.org)

 **1 800 660 4287**

 [@smcexpresslanes](https://twitter.com/smcexpresslanes)

 [fb.com/smcexpresslanes](https://fb.com/smcexpresslanes)

### Express Lanes Project Construction

 Alejandro Lopez at (510) 385-6856

 [101Express.com](https://101Express.com)

 [101express@dot.ca.gov](mailto:101express@dot.ca.gov)

 [@CaltransD4](https://twitter.com/CaltransD4)