



Highway 1 Bus-on-Shoulder Program

Project Description

Bus operations along the congested portions of Highway 1 pose a significant challenge for Santa Cruz METRO as the agency works to keep public transit competitive with single-occupant vehicles in the same traffic conditions. To address this problem, several state transit agencies, in collaboration with their Department of Transportation partners, have implemented bus-on-shoulder (BOS) operations during peak congestion periods as an innovative approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve transit travel time and reliability, and increase transit ridership.

Assembly Bill 946 was passed in 2013 allowing Monterey and Santa Cruz counties to operate buses on the shoulders of Highway 1. A feasibility study for operating buses on the shoulders of Highway 1 in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties was conducted by Monterey-Salinas Transit (MST) in cooperation with Caltrans, California Highway Patrol (CHP), Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), METRO and local jurisdictions. Key findings from the feasibility study were that congestion and unreliability keep METRO from using Highway 1 more extensively for bus services; Highway 1 shoulders lack the width and pavement structural section to support bus-on-shoulder operations without significant construction; and the existing and planned auxiliary lanes provide an opportunity for bus-on-shoulder operations and should be implemented in coordination with each of the auxiliary lane projects.



Project Highlights

- ▶ Cost-effective solution to achieve transit travel time and reliability improvements in the near-term
- ▶ Buses will travel in the auxiliary lanes between interchanges and on the outside shoulder through interchanges
- ▶ Bus-on-Shoulder elements will be constructed with the future auxiliary lanes projects planned on Highway 1
- ▶ Reduces Greenhouse Gases (GHG) and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)



Source: Chicago Tribune