

# SAN MATEO 101 EXPRESS LANES PROJECT VEGETATION REMOVAL FACT SHEET



## FACT SHEET

WINTER 2020

### PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The San Mateo (SM) 101 Express Lanes Project is a multi-year, multi-agency project initiated to reduce traffic congestion and encourage carpooling and transit use on U.S. 101 in San Mateo County.

The existing HOV lanes will be converted into express lanes from the San Mateo County/Santa Clara County line to Whipple Avenue. The project will also add an additional lane to both northbound and southbound U.S. 101 from Whipple Avenue in Redwood City to I-380 in South San Francisco. This will create 22 miles of express lanes in each direction in San Mateo County and provide a seamless transition to the express lanes being constructed in Santa Clara County.

### PROJECT BENEFITS:

- Encourage carpooling and transit use
- Improve travel time and reliability for express lane users
- Increase person throughput (the number of people moved)
- Use modern technology to manage traffic
- Reduce congestion in the corridor
- Make upgrades to pavement and lane striping

### VEGETATION REMOVAL:

**Who:** As part of the SM 101 Express Lanes Project, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will be removing vegetation, including trees and shrubs, at select areas adjacent to U.S. 101. Caltrans has been working closely with cities and jurisdictions along the corridor to provide updates and address questions and concerns.

**Why:** Vegetation removal is necessary to accommodate the creation of the express lane, provide construction access, and to maintain safe highway clearance zones.

**Where:** Vegetation removal activities will begin February 2020 and continue throughout the remainder of 2020. Vegetation removal may be noticeable near residential areas in San Mateo and commercial areas in Burlingame and San Carlos, in the Caltrans right-of-way. Trees proposed for removal do not overhang or encroach onto private properties.

**When:** Nearby residents and motorists can expect to see crews removing vegetation during the day and then hauling it away at night (9:00 PM to 5:30 AM, Sunday through Thursday). Crews may access vegetation removal areas on local roadways adjacent to the freeway in Burlingame and San Carlos. Traffic cones and flaggers will be used to ensure safe driving and working conditions.

**How:** Work at each location is anticipated to take a few days or less. Construction noise from vegetation removal is expected to be intermittent, within allowable noise limits, and is anticipated not to exceed allowable noise limits and no exceedances are anticipated. Construction crews will monitor noise levels to ensure removal activities remain below the required limits.

### VEGETATION REMOVAL MAP:

A full map showing all of the vegetation and trees being removed in the project area is available at the project website: [101express.com](http://101express.com).



## WHAT TO EXPECT

- Vegetation removal at select areas in Caltrans right-of-way adjacent to US 101
- Intermittent lane closures on the freeway or on local roadways adjacent to the freeway, at select areas
- Minor noise increases from vegetation removal activities or hauling
- Vegetation removal equipment staging
- Trucks transporting removed vegetation
- Little to no change in residential backyard views

## VEGETATION REPLANTING

- The project's landscape replacement plan is being developed and is expected to be complete during mid-2021
- All highway planting will be implemented within two years of completion of all road work
- Landscaping will be replaced in accordance with Caltrans policy and the project's Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment

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For questions during construction, contact the Caltrans Public Information Officer:

Alejandro Lopez at (510) 286-4948 or [101express@dot.ca.gov](mailto:101express@dot.ca.gov).