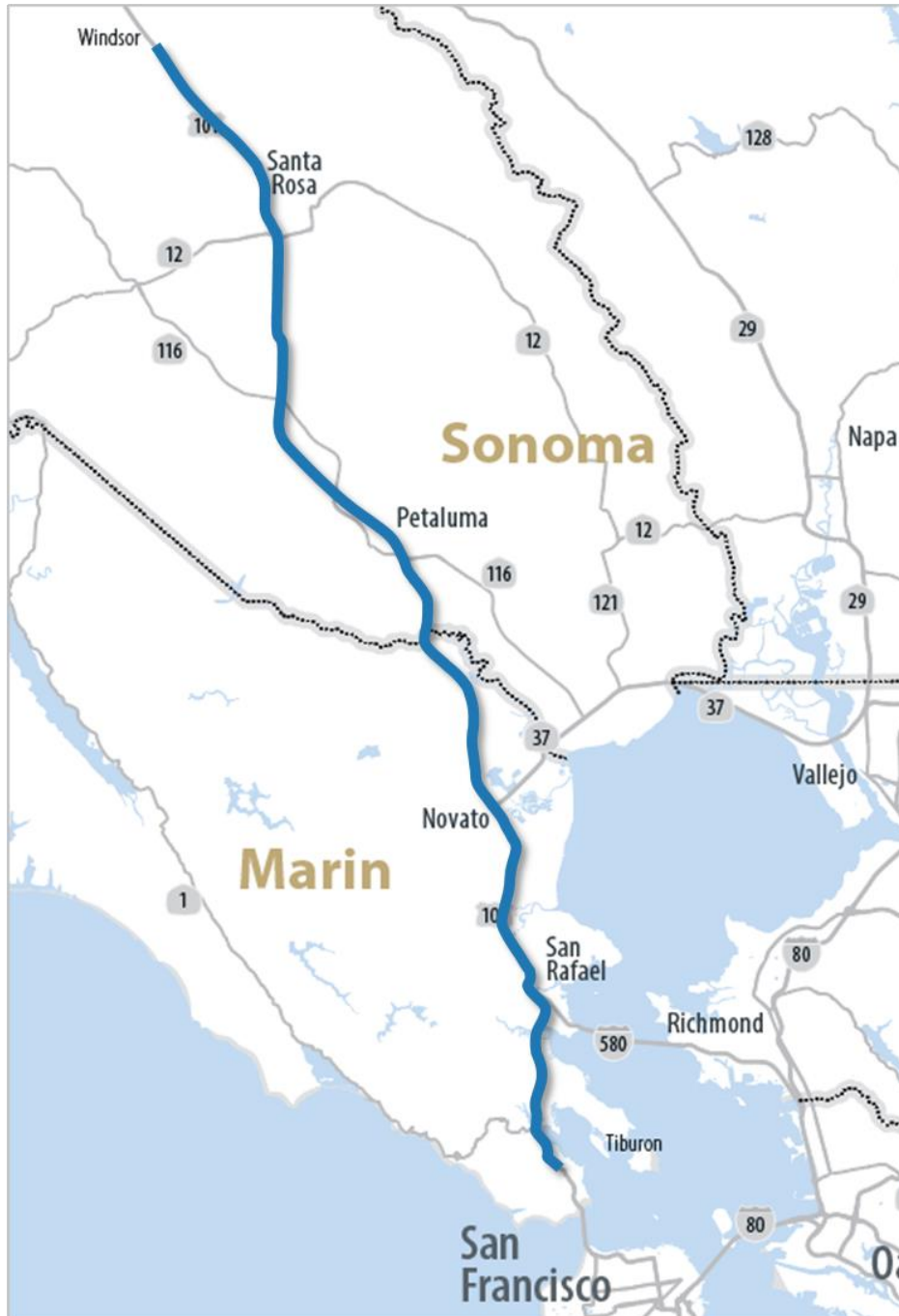


Marin-Sonoma US 101 Corridor Briefer

November 2025



New HOV Network in North Bay

After nearly 30 years of work on the **Marin-Sonoma Narrows project**, the final segment of **High-Occupancy Vehicle lanes** on US-101 is now open, creating a **continuous 52-mile HOV** corridor from the Richardson Bay Bridge in Marin County to Windsor in Sonoma County.

Project Overview

- The project added **one HOV lane in each direction** along 17 miles of US-101, closing the gap between Marin and Sonoma. Final paving and striping will be completed in **Spring 2026**.
- Improvements include **better safety and visibility**, conversion to a **controlled-access freeway**, and the creation of **multi-use and on-street bikeways** between Novato and Petaluma.
- The Environmental Impact Report committed to standardized **HOV operating hours** on the corridor.



Updated HOV Hours

- New hours are **Monday–Friday, 5-10 AM and 3-7 PM**, in both directions.
- HOV lanes aim to improve traffic efficiency, support carpools and transit, and reduce emissions.
- Caltrans, MTC, TAM and SCTCA are aware of **traveler frustrations** due to recent changes and are collecting data to inform future adjustments.

Traffic Monitoring

- **Caltrans and MTC** are using cameras, sensors, and data analytics to study travel times, speeds, transit ridership, and congestion.
- Data will be collected through **February 2026** to guide decisions on potential HOV hour adjustments.
- Future Monthly Briefer editions will include data collection results.

Tools to Improve Traffic and Travel Options

- **Adaptive (smart) ramp metering** is being phased in to smooth traffic flow and improve safety.
 - Four northbound ramp meters were activated in Marin in June, reducing travel times between Sausalito and Corte Madera.
 - More ramp meters in Marin and Sonoma are planned for **late 2025–early 2026**.
 - **Full smart metering** from Spencer Ave. to Sir Francis Drake Blvd. is targeted for **late 2026**.

Transit Service Updates (April 2026 implementation)

- **SMART** rail service and **Golden Gate Transit Route 101** bus frequency (south of San Rafael) will increase.
- Additional changes to Golden Gate Transit commuter bus services and improved local transit connections for other agencies will be introduced.

Upcoming Operational Improvements

Projects under construction or design include:

- **Hearn Avenue Reconstruction (2025)**
- **Bellam Blvd. Off-Ramp & Safety Improvements (2025)**
- **Freitas Parkway/US-101 Roundabout (2026)**
- **Tamalpais Drive Overcrossing Improvements**
- **US-101 Part-Time Transit Lane**
- **US-101/I-580 Multimodal Improvements**
- **Interchange upgrades** at SR 131 Tiburon/East Blithedale, Freitas Parkway/Civic Center Dr., and Alameda Del Prado/Nave Drive

