



April 30, 2026

To: State Route 91 Advisory Committee
From: Kirk Avila, General Manager, OCTA
Jennifer Crosson, Toll Program Director, RCTC *JC.*
Subject: Joint 91 Express Lanes Status Reports

Overview

The Joint 91 Express Lanes status reports for the months of September 2025 through February 2026 have been prepared for State Route 91 Advisory Committee review. The reports highlight operational and financial activities for both the Orange County Transportation Authority and Riverside County Transportation Commission segments of the 91 Express Lanes.

Recommendation

Receive and file the joint 91 Express Lanes status reports for the months of September 2025 through February 2026.

Background

The joint monthly status reports are prepared to document 91 Express Lanes (91 EL) activities and are provided for review by the State Route 91 Advisory Committee.

Discussion

During the six-month period from September 2025 through February 2026, the 91 EL segment for the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) generally saw increases in traffic volumes and gross potential revenue (GPTR). The 91 EL segment for OCTA saw a 1.3 percent increase in total traffic volumes and a 6.4 percent GPTR compared to the same time periods in the prior year. Carpool lane usage was an area where the OCTA 91 EL saw decreases in traffic volumes and GPTR. The decrease in carpool lane usage is due to the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) implementing an occupancy detection system (ODS). Even though OCTA has not implemented the ODS, it

appears that travelers are adjusting their lane selection and travel patterns on both segments. The decrease in carpool usage appears to have led customers to switch from the carpool lane to the full toll lanes.

During the six-month period from September 2025 through February 2026, the 91 EL segment for RCTC had a 4.8 percent increase in transactions for the full toll lanes and a 11.6 percent reduction in transactions in the carpool lane when compared to the prior year. The overall change was a 0.8 percent increase in transactions. The reduction in the carpool lane transactions is due to the implementation of ODS in August 2025. The ODS is charging customers using the carpool lane without three or more occupants the toll and a \$5 processing fee. As a result, non-compliant users have stopped using the carpool lane.

GPTR for the same six-month period decreased by 3.3 percent compared to the prior year. GPTR has decreased as a result of a reduction in transactions during some peak period hours and increases in weekend traffic. The decrease in the peak period hours resulted in lower toll rates reducing revenue for those time periods. The weekend toll rates are lower than weekdays and increases in weekend traffic result in lower revenue increases when compared to the weekdays.

Staff will continue to closely monitor traffic and revenue data and report regularly to the State Route 91 Advisory Committee.

Summary

The Joint 91 Express Lanes status reports for September 2025 through February 2026 are provided for review. The report highlights operational and financial activities.

Attachments

- A. 91 Express Lanes Status Report – As of September 30, 2025
- B. 91 Express Lanes Status Report – As of October 31, 2025
- C. 91 Express Lanes Status Report – As of November 30, 2025
- D. 91 Express Lanes Status Report – As of December 31, 2025
- E. 91 Express Lanes Status Report – As of January 31, 2026
- F. 91 Express Lanes Status Report – As of February 28, 2026