

South Orange County's Traffic Relief Alternative

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New home owners don't just purchase a new house or condominium; they invest in a lifestyle. The qualities of the home itself are only a portion of the decision-making process when such an investment is made. Other factors including schools, neighborhoods and traffic all impact the home-buying decision.

In South Orange County, the Toll Roads have been a boon to the community's quality of life and have provided significant traffic relief for residents and businesses throughout the region. Without these needed thoroughfares providing a convenient and speedy transportation alternative for more than a quarter million commuters every day, South Orange County's city streets would be jammed and the I-5 freeway would be a nightmare.

The 67-mile toll road system is nearly complete. The final segment to complete the system is a 16-mile extension of the 241 Foothill Toll Road from Oso Parkway in Rancho Santa Margarita to the I-5 freeway south of San Clemente. This final leg of the toll road system is called "Foothill-South" and has been approved locally by the Foothill/ Eastern Transportation Corridor Agency (TCA), but still needs to obtain several permits from various federal and state agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the California Coastal Commission. Many of these agencies have been working with TCA throughout the six year environmental review process.

Once the extension opens, traffic congestion on the I-5 freeway through the southernmost portion of our roadway system will be reduced. Traffic studies show that without this alternative to I-5, by 2025 freeway traffic from Oso Parkway to the Orange/San Diego county line will take more than an hour. With Foothill-South, that freeway commute time would be reduced to about 25 minutes; and the 16-mile trip on Foothill-South would take just over 15 minutes.

New home owners know that getting home to their loved ones at the end of the work day is an integral part of their quality of life. The Toll Roads can provide a convenient alternative to clogged freeways. If you are interested in learning more about this needed roadway, please contact Jeff Bott at TCA at 949-754-3458 or log on to the Foothill-South website at www.foothill-south.com.

To sign up for FasTrak®, go to www.thetollroads.com, or visit our customer service centers:

125 Pacifica #120

Irvine, CA 92618

800-378-TRAK

209 Avenida Del Mar #102

San Clemente, CA 92672

949-366-4941

To learn more about Foothil-South, go to www.relievetraffic.org