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## NEWS RELEASE

# City of Cupertino Communicates Concerns Regarding the State Route 85 Express Lane Project

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**City of Cupertino, CA – February 27, 2014** – The City of Cupertino City Council announced today that it will be filing a letter of comment expressing fundamental concerns with the State Route 85 Express Lane Project Initial Study.

The City has several fundamental concerns with the Project:

- The Project has the potential to hinder or preclude altogether light rail transit along the SR 85 corridor;
- The Project will discourage carpooling and the use of electric vehicles;
- The Project, as currently designed, is socially inequitable and fails to achieve its own goals;
- The Initial Study fails to adequately evaluate the Project's environmental impacts or to propose effective mitigation measures, rendering the document inadequate under both the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code section 21000 *et seq.* and the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), 42 U.S.C. section 4321 *et seq.*;
- The City is concerned that federal funding for the Project will require the existing truck weight limit on SR 85 to be removed, which would create a significant environmental effect that must be analyzed;
- VTA's environmental review does not consider reasonable alternatives to the Express Lane Project.

This letter, along with the transportation report prepared by MRO Engineers is available at the city of Cupertino website, [www.Cupertino.org](http://www.Cupertino.org).

State Route 85 Express Lanes Project would convert the existing High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on SR 85 to express lanes, allowing single-occupant vehicles to pay a toll to use the lanes. HOVs would continue to use the lanes at no cost. The express lanes would extend along the entire 24.1-mile length of SR 85 and 1.5 miles of US 101 from the southern end of SR 85 to Metcalf Road in San Jose. In addition, the Project includes: (1) paving the existing 46-foot median to construct a second express lane, which would be added in both directions on SR 85 between I-280 and SR 87; (2) an auxiliary lane, which would be added along a 1.1-mile segment of northbound SR 85 between South De Anza Boulevard and Stevens Creek Boulevard; and (3) widening of numerous bridges along SR 85.

Cupertino, CA, is on the western edge of Silicon Valley against the foothills of the Santa Cruz Mountains. With a population of 58,000 within 13 square miles, Cupertino is 42 miles south of San Francisco and home to Apple Inc. and many other high-tech companies.

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