Big Time Savings for Carpoolers on Interstate 880 and Other Key Commute Corridors

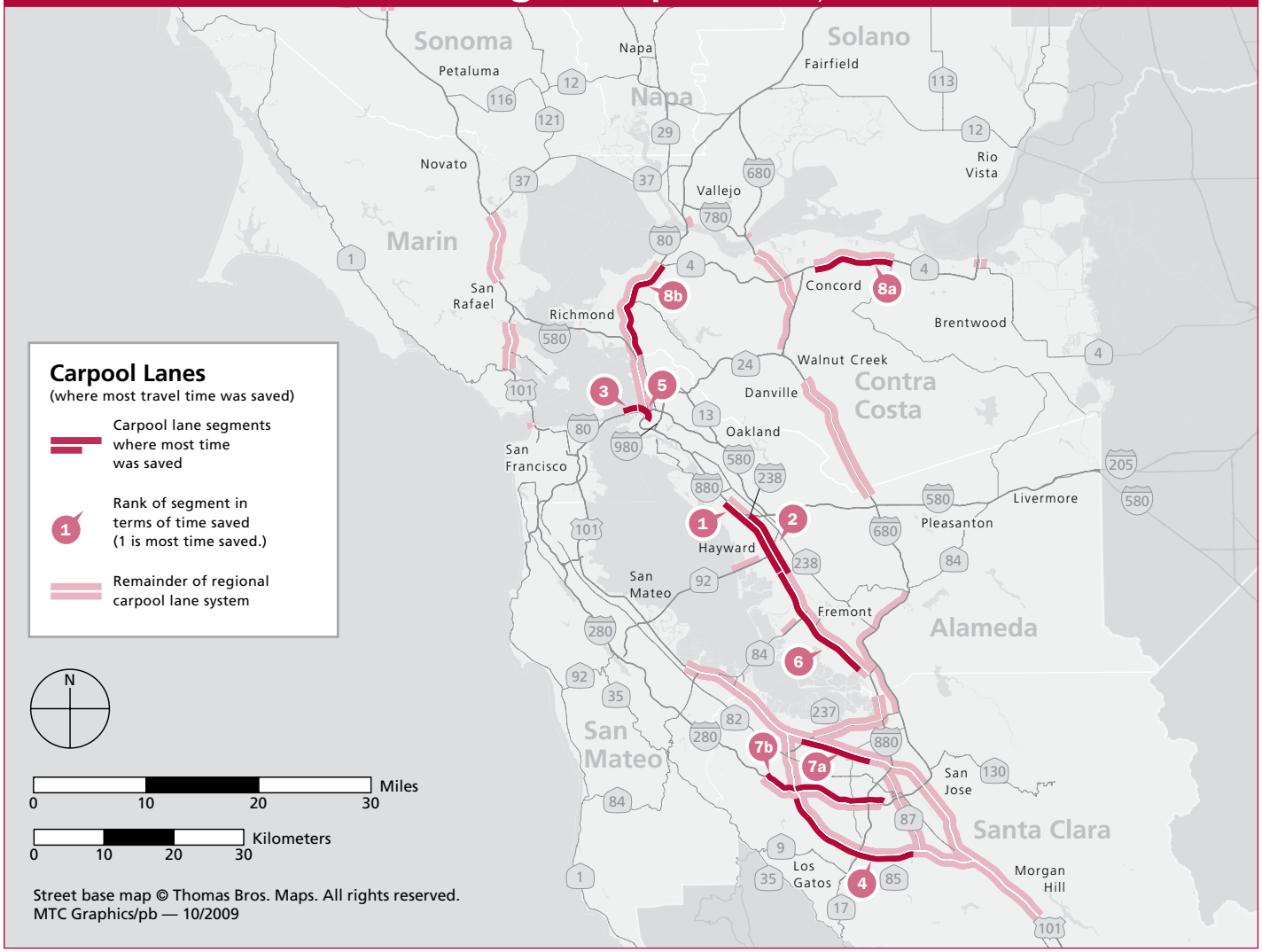
- Peak-hour carpoolers who use the Bay Area's network of high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes consistently enjoy significantly faster commutes than drivers in adjacent mixed-flow lanes.
- The HOV lane on Interstate 880 in Alameda County continues to be the biggest timesaver for carpoolers during the southbound morning commute from Marina Boulevard in San Leandro to Whipple Road in Union City. Travelers saved an average 24 minutes in 2007, up from 14 minutes in 2006. Combined with the average 17 minutes saved in the HOV lane from Whipple Road to Mission Boulevard in Fremont, the southbound I-880 carpool lane offers a 41-minute time advantage to commuters traveling the entire 20-mile distance.

Bay Area Carpool Lanes Where Most Time Was Saved, 2003–2007

		Minutes Saved per Vehicle in Peak Hour					Change in Minutes Saved	
Rank	Carpool Lane	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2006–2007	2003–2007
1	**Interstate 880, southbound, a.m.** — Alameda County *Marina Boulevard to Whipple Road (8.8 miles)*	18	17	8	14	24	+10	+6
2	**Interstate 880, northbound, a.m.** — Alameda Co. *Whipple Road to south of I-238 (5.3 miles)*	8	8	5	5	23	+18	+1
3	**Interstate 80, westbound, a.m.** — Alameda County *Bay Bridge toll plaza (4 lanes, 0.4 to 1.0 miles)*	13	13	11	15	20	+5	+7
4	**Route 85, southbound, p.m.** — Santa Clara County *Marina Vista to north of North Main Street (7.8 miles)*	12	14	15	19	19	0	+7
5	**Interstate 880, northbound, a.m.** — Alameda County *16th Street to Bay Bridge toll plaza (1.4 miles)*	5	18	7	18	18	0	+13
6	**Interstate 880, southbound, a.m.** — Alameda County *Whipple Road to Mission Boulevard (11.5 miles)*	20	19	23	18	17	–1	–3
7a	**U.S. 101, southbound, p.m.** — Santa Clara County *Ellis Street to Guadalupe Parkway (6.9 miles)*	3	9	8	13	16	+3	+13
7b	**Interstate 280, northbound, a.m.** — Santa Clara County *Leland Avenue to Magdalena Avenue (10.8 miles)*	6	14	7	17	16	–1	+10
8a	**Highway 4, eastbound, p.m.** — Contra Costa County *Port Chicago Highway to west of Railroad Avenue (7.3 miles)*	8	6	12	4	14	+10	+6
8b	**Interstate 80, eastbound. p.m.** — Contra Costa County *Alameda County line to Route 4 (9.5 miles)*	9	5	8	8	14	+6	+5

Source: Caltrans District 4

Time Savings in Carpool Lanes, 2007



- The HOV lanes in the Interstate 880 corridor offered significant travel time savings to morning commuters in the northbound direction as well. Northbound Interstate 880 travelers in Alameda County saved 23 minutes from Whipple Road to south of the State Route 238 interchange. This represents a sizable increase in the travel time benefit enjoyed by users of this HOV lane segment, compared to 2006.