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South Bay Expressway Service Center to Open

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San Diego Business Journal Staff

In preparation for its opening, South Bay Expressway plans to hold a kickoff event from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 12 for its newly constructed customer service center at 1129 La Media Road in Otay Mesa near state Route 905.

Customers who attend the event will have a chance to sign up for a FasTrak account, a service that allows people to bypass toll stops and save money on toll fees. The service provides customers with a special transponder, which automatically deducts money from their prepaid accounts each time they drive past a toll stop.

The prepaid account, linked to the customer's credit card, refills to a \$40 balance when the account runs low. Toll fees with FasTrak range from 75 cents to \$3.50, depending on the distance traveled. Regular toll fees without the service range from \$1.75 to \$3.75.

The first person in line to open a FasTrak account at the July 12 event will win a year of free tolls, and the next 25 people will each win six months of free tolls. Customers may line up no earlier than 8 p.m. July 11.

In addition, anyone opening an account before Sept. 30 will receive \$25 in toll credits and two weeks of free tolls on the expressway. Customers also have the option of opening their accounts online at www.southbayexpressway.com or by calling (619) 661-7070.

Those who open an account at the event will be eligible for prizes provided by South Bay businesses.

FasTrak account holders may use the service to pay tolls on any California toll road that displays the FasTrak symbol. The Interstate 15 express lanes, Orange County toll roads and the Golden Gate Bridge are among the roads that feature the service.

South Bay Expressway is a 10-mile toll road running from state Route 54 in Spring Valley to state Route 905 in Otay Mesa. The expressway is set to open by late September. Construction on the route started in 2003. A public/private financial partnership between the state of California and California Transportation Ventures Inc. made the \$635 million project possible.

— Sam Blanchard

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