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## **EAST BAY**

### **Transportation chief sits in traffic on I-580 and then pledges help**

- [Michael Cabanatuan, Chronicle Staff Writer](#)

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Acting Secretary of Transportation Maria Cino got a glimpse of late-morning traffic on Interstate 580 over the Altamont Pass on Thursday and promised to help find solutions.

Cino, en route to the site of a corroded oil pipeline in Alaska, visited at Rep. Richard Pombo's behest. Pombo, R-Tracy, represents residents on both sides of the pass and says I-580 is one of the nation's worst transportation problems.

Cino said solutions might include truck-only lanes, carpool lanes, "short shipping" of goods between the ports of Oakland, Sacramento and Stockton, and toll roads.

"If we try to incorporate not just one solution but a menu of solutions, we can make a difference," she said. "I think everything's on the table."

Pombo suggested that the solutions may include his controversial proposal for a new freeway to connect the Tracy area to Santa Clara County. That, he said, would be a long-term solution. In the nearer future, he said, the addition of carpool lanes to I-580 is needed, along with further expansion of transit, including the Altamont Commuter Express train and a BART extension to Livermore.

Cino offered no promises to help fund improvements and said the next step is planning. She and Pombo, escorted by a California Highway Patrol car, also fought late-morning traffic to meet with transportation planners and elected officials in Pleasanton.

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