



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Monday, October 22, 2012

District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRAFFIC SWITCH ON 101 SANTA MARIA RIVER BRIDGE BEGINS NEXT WEEK

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY – Construction to widen the U.S. Hwy. 101 Santa Maria River Bridge will result in motorists on **southbound Hwy. 101** being temporarily detoured off Hwy. 101 at the southbound Hwy. 166 off-ramp before re-entering the highway on-ramp on Wednesday, Oct. 24 beginning at 9 pm.

This detour will allow for the realignment of the southbound lanes of Hwy. 101 onto the newly-constructed median structure which will be used by motorists for approximately six months. This realignment will allow for improvements to be made to the existing southbound lanes.

Cyclists should be aware of limited shoulder space on the bridge at all times during this phase of construction. The following detour is recommended. Bicyclists traveling southbound can detour along Thompson Avenue to Highway 166 East to Bull Canyon Road to Donovan Road. Those traveling northbound can detour along Donovan Road to Bull Canyon Road to Highway 166 West to Thompson Avenue.

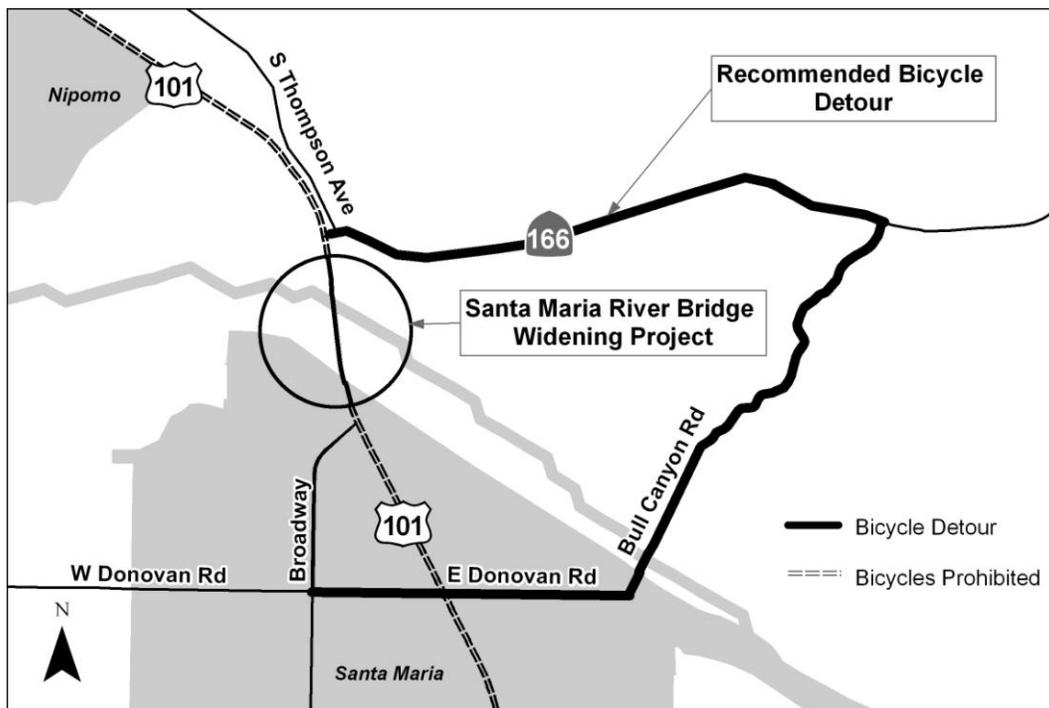
This project will widen the bridge from two to three lanes in each direction with inside/outside shoulders and will include a bicycle path near the southbound lanes behind a concrete barrier. In addition, all existing traffic lanes will be resurfaced.

The contractor for this \$31 million project is Flatiron West Inc. of San Marcos, CA. The project is about 65% complete. It is expected to be completed in early 2014.

(more)



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The public may view the Caltrans Live Streaming Video of the Santa Maria River Bridge at: <http://video.dot.ca.gov/>.

Caltrans reminds motorists to move over and slow down when driving through Caltrans work zones

For traffic updates on other state highways in San Luis Obispo County, motorists can call Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-549-3318 or can visit the District 5 website at: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/road_information.htm

