



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. 101, VINEYARD AVENUE TO JOHNSON BOULEVARD -- ALL LANES/RAMPS OPEN TODAY AS PART OF FREEWAY WIDENING PROJECT

Ventura/Oxnard – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announces that all lanes and freeway ramps have been opened this morning on northbound and southbound U.S. 101 from Vineyard Avenue in the City of Oxnard to Johnson Boulevard in the city of Ventura, as part of a freeway widening project from three lanes to six lanes in each direction. In addition, the Oxnard Street on-ramp to northbound 101 also opened earlier today.

Since May, 2002, construction had been underway to widen the freeway, replace the seven-lane Santa Clara River Bridge with a 12-vehicle lane bridge, reconstruct Wagon Wheel Road and construct new connectors from Oxnard Boulevard (SR-1) to U. S. 101 with a new diamond-shaped interchange. Total project cost is estimated at \$100 million.

Some minor finishing work remains, such as sign installation, sandblasting and decorative bridge rail installation, which is estimated to take an additional two to three months.

These freeway improvements will facilitate traffic flow between the cities of Ventura and Oxnard, provide increased traffic capacity, improve air quality and provide a more efficient and safer transition between State Route 1 and U. S. 101.

Caltrans thanks the Cities of Oxnard and Ventura, as well as the Ventura County Transportation Commission for their partnership and cooperation during this improvement project. Caltrans also thanks residents, business and motorists for their patience and understanding during construction.

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