



NEWS RELEASE

Date: April 29, 2005
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY HELD FOR NEW PROJECT AT THE 101/405

LOS ANGELES – State and local transportation representatives and elected officials celebrated the start of a \$46 million project to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow at the Ventura Freeway (U.S. 101)/San Diego Freeway (I-405) interchange at a groundbreaking ceremony today.

This project addresses a major source of congestion at the interchange—freeway access from Sepulveda Boulevard and the transition onto the U.S. 101 connector. The improvement involves reconfiguring the ramps to create more space and facilitate merging. A City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) project to widen Sepulveda Boulevard is being combined with this project. Steve Rados of Santa Ana is the contractor. Estimated completion date is spring 2007.

The interchange improvement project will enhance safety by reducing the need to cross several lanes of traffic to access the connector. Combined with prior and planned projects at the interchange, the project will provide congestion relief at one of the busiest interchanges in the State.

“The 101/405 Interchange is a vital part of the freeway system in Southern California,” said California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 7 Director Doug Failing. “Renovating the interchange will greatly improve the commute for the more than 550,000 motorists who use it daily.”

Other interchange enhancements include two additional HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) lane projects scheduled to begin this summer. The first is the extension of the southbound I-405 HOV lane from Waterford Street to the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10). When completed in 2009, it will provide a continuous HOV lane on southbound I-405 in Los Angeles County all the way to Los Angeles International Airport. It will be followed by an HOV lane on northbound I-405 between Ventura Boulevard and Burbank Boulevard. When this project is finished, the HOV lane will be continuous northerly through the I-405/U.S.101 Interchange.





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Completed projects at the interchange include: widening the connector from northbound I-405 to eastbound U.S. 101; adding a two-mile auxiliary lane on northbound I-405, from just north of Mulholland Drive to Sepulveda Boulevard to ease merging onto eastbound U.S. 101; and a 7.8 mile High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane on southbound I-405 between Burbank Boulevard and Waterford Street.

In the planning stage is an HOV lane on northbound I-405 from I-10 to U.S. 101. Project design and environmental documents will be completed in 2007.

"These enhancements to this vital freeway interchange once completed will be a major milestone in moving traffic safely through this area," said MTA Board Chairman Frank Roberts. "This is a key project in promoting public safety and will be an important link in the overall transportation improvements planned for the 405 freeway."

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