



NEWS RELEASE

Date: Wednesday, February 6, 2013
District: 7 - Los Angeles & Ventura counties
Contact: Maria Raptis
Phone: 213-897-9372
For Immediate Release

More Congestion Relief Coming to Santa Ana Freeway

Caltrans begins third of six I-5 South Corridor projects

NORWALK – Caltrans and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) today began construction on a \$214 million project on the Santa Ana Freeway (Interstate 5) that will significantly lower traffic congestion while improving safety.

The work is part of the I-5 South Corridor Improvement Projects, a \$1.6 billion package of six projects extending seven miles from the Los Angeles County/Orange County line to the San Gabriel River Freeway (Interstate 605). More than 220,000 vehicles travel this section of I-5 daily.

“Caltrans is making a solid investment on the Santa Ana Freeway that will reduce traffic congestion, provide jobs and support economic growth,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

The project that began today (the I-5 Carpool Lane Widening/Rosecrans and Bloomfield Bridges Project) is funded by federal, state, and local financing, including \$147 million from Proposition 1B, a 2006 voter-approved transportation bond, \$24 million from state transportation funds, and \$42 million from Metro’s Proposition C and Measure R.

“Metro is proud to program about 60 percent of the \$1.6 billion funding for these long overdue corridor projects,” said Los Angeles County Supervisor and Metro Board Member Don Knabe. “It’s more than a worthwhile investment; it’s an essential one that will make a huge difference in the lives of the hundreds of thousands of people who commute on this corridor.”

The project will add one carpool lane and one regular lane in each direction from Shoemaker Avenue to Silverbow Avenue; reconstruct the Rosecrans, Bloomfield and Shoemaker bridges; build a pedestrian overcrossing at Silverbow Avenue; and upgrade the Firestone Boulevard frontage road. Flatiron West, Inc. of San Marcos is the prime contractor.

“The I-5 Corridor projects illustrate how Metro and Caltrans are working together to bring congestion relief to our entire region.” said Metro Board 1st Vice Chair Diane DuBois.

Caltrans’ partners for the I-5 South Corridor Improvement Projects include Metro and the Federal Highway Administration, with the support of the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority and the Gateway Cities Council of Governments. For more information on all of the projects, please see the attached file.

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