



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **CONTRACT AWARDED FOR I-5 TRUCK TUNNEL REPAIR WORK**

### **Repairs Expected to be Complete before the Thanksgiving Holiday**

**LOS ANGELES** – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has awarded a contract for repair of the southbound Golden State Freeway (I-5) Newhall Pass truck lanes tunnel to low bidder Security Paving Company Inc., located in Oxnard.

Work will begin immediately. The tunnel has been closed since October 12, when a 31-vehicle pile-up ignited a devastating fire inside it, closing I-5 in both directions; three people died in the blaze. Due to the non-stop efforts of fire fighters, California Highway Patrol and Caltrans personnel, the north and southbound mainline freeway lanes as well as the northbound truck lanes were fully restored in 52 hours.

The emergency repair project includes slab replacement, concrete barrier and metal beam guardrail repair, drainage and landscaping. Structure work will include partial soffit replacement/repair and repair of abutment walls.

To expedite the work, the contract contains an incentive/disincentive clause to encourage early completion. The contractor may earn up to a \$2.9 million bonus for completing the \$11 million project by or before Thursday, November 15. As a disincentive, failure to complete the contract in a 33-day period will cause the contractor to owe the State \$150,000 per day for each day of uncompleted work over 33 days plus liquidated damages.

Until the tunnel repair work completes, motorists are sharing southbound I-5 in this area with commercial vehicles. This is causing additional congestion during commute hours. All users are advised to plan trips accordingly, use alternate routes whenever possible and consider using Metrolink and other forms of transit.

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