



NEWS RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2009
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION COMPLETES ON EASTBOUND RONALD REAGAN FREEWAY (STATE ROUTE 118) WIDENING PROJECT

Simi Valley – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) today announced the official opening of the eastbound portion of the Ronald Reagan Freeway (SR-118) from Tapo Street to Kuehner Drive at a completion ceremony held here this morning.

Today marks the completion of the first of two phases to add a general purpose lane in each direction on SR-118 from Tapo Canyon Road to the Los Angeles County line. The \$46.5 million project widened the freeway from three to four lanes, constructed nearly 3.7 miles of sound walls and widened four bridges to accommodate the freeway widening. The project also installed nearly 11 miles of fiber-optic cables underneath the pavement, from Tapo Canyon Road to the Los Angeles County line, which will provide real-time traffic data to the Caltrans Transportation Management Center for dissemination to the public, the media and the Internet.

Caltrans Director Will Kempton said, "The work that Caltrans does touches people's lives every day. This is an important project as evidenced by so many citizens and representatives of city, county and state government present today. This project is important because Caltrans and its Ventura County partners have jointly produced many successful highway projects that are ensuring that this county remains an attractive place to live, work, play and conduct business."

Darren Kettle, executive director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission, Caltrans' transportation partner in this project said, "This project does something for all of us. Many of the improvements included in this project will provide better access for nearby residents, businesses, recreation and essential services. These are benefits that you, your families and friends can enjoy."

Other elected officials present were Ventura County Supervisor Peter Foy; Simi Valley Mayor Paul Miller; Moorpark Mayor Janice Parvin; and Simi Valley City Councilmember Steven Sjoka. Representatives from the region's federal and state elected officials were present from the offices of Congressman Elton Gallegly, Senator George Runner, Senator Tony Strickland, Assemblymember Cameron Smyth and Assemblymember Audra Strickland.

In a separate project, Phase 2 will add one mixed flow lane on westbound SR-118 from the Los Angeles county line to Tapo Canyon Road. On eastbound SR-118, one mixed flow lane will be added from Tapo Canyon Road to Tapo Street and from Kuehner Road to the Los Angeles County line. Cost of construction for Phase 2 is estimated at \$25 million and is expected to begin late summer 2009 pending fund availability and California Transportation Commission CTC approval.

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