



NEWS RELEASE

Date: Tuesday, March 15, 2011
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS COMPLETES RONALD REAGAN FREEWAY WIDENING IN SIMI VALLEY

Simi Valley - Caltrans today announced it has completed a \$19 million construction project that will bring traffic congestion relief to more than 115,000 motorists daily who travel the Ronald Reagan Freeway (SR-118) in Simi Valley.

The project, which was partially financed (\$6.5 million) by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act), added a new westbound lane along a five-mile section of SR-118 between Tapo Canyon Road and the Los Angeles/Ventura county line and also completed widening the final two sections of a new eastbound lane along the same stretch of freeway. Construction began sooner than expected last March - and at a lower cost than anticipated - thanks to the Recovery Act funding and the state's efforts to expedite that funding.

"Caltrans is committed to reducing traffic congestion in Ventura and Los Angeles counties," said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim. "This project is an excellent example of how the Recovery Act delivered the funding we needed to improve the freeway, while at the same time supporting jobs and the local economy."

The project was a partnership between Caltrans and the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC). The construction contractor was Security Paving Company of Sun Valley.

"VCTC and Caltrans have jointly produced many successful transportation projects," said Darren Kettle, VCTC Executive Director. "This project has already benefited residents, visitors, and commerce, and it will provide safer, easier, and more efficient commutes for many years."

In 2009, Caltrans widened eastbound SR-118 between Tapo Street and Kuehner Drive in Simi Valley from three to four lanes, constructed nearly four miles of sound walls, widened four bridges, and installed nearly 11 miles of fiber-optic cables to collect traffic data.

California has obligated nearly \$2.6 billion in Recovery Act funding to nearly 1,000 highway, local street, and job training transportation projects statewide. For more information on the Recovery Act visit: <http://recovery.ca.gov/>

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