



NEWS RELEASE

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District 7: Los Angeles & Ventura Counties

Contact: Maria Raptis

Phone: (213) 897-9372

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN TO WIDEN THE EASTBOUND PORTION OF THE RONALD REAGAN FREEWAY (STATE ROUTE 118) IN SIMI VALLEY

Simi Valley- The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced today that construction is expected to begin in early April, 2007 to widen the eastbound portion of the Ronald Reagan Freeway (SR-118) from Tapo Street to Kuehner Drive.

The project will widen the freeway from three to four lanes, construct soundwalls and widen four bridges. The project will install 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.

At a groundbreaking ceremony held today, Caltrans District 7 Director Doug Failing said, "The work that Caltrans does touches people's lives everyday. This is an important project as evidenced by so many residents, citizens, and representatives of city, county and state government present today."

Ojai Council Member and chairman of the Ventura County Transportation Commission Joe DeVito said, "This project does something for all of us. Most importantly, in matters of safety, studies and reports have shown that accidents caused by congestion are decreased when there is improved traffic flow. This project will improve safety."

Other elected officials present were Simi Valley Mayor Paul Miller; Ventura County Supervisor Peter Foy; Thousand Oaks Mayor Pro Tem Jacqui Irwin; and City Council Members Barbara Williamson of Simi Valley and Keith Millhouse of Moorpark.

According to Caltrans, this \$46.5 million project is expected to complete in mid-2009. This project is state-funded through the Ventura County Transportation Commission.

Phase 2, which will widen the westbound portion of SR-118 at this location, is currently in the design stage and is expected to begin in mid-2008 at an additional cost of \$34.5 million.

The Phase 1 contractor is C.A. Rasmussen of Simi Valley.

