



TRAFFIC ADVISORY

Today's Date: June 3, 2016
District: 10 - Stockton
Contact: Rick Estrada
Phone: (209) 941-6562

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRAFFIC ADVISORY **TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF INTERSTATE 5 FROM** **STATE ROUTE 33 TO STATE ROUTE 132 IN SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY**

San Joaquin County – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is continuing its temporary closure of northbound and southbound Interstate 5 (I-5), from State Route 33 (SR-33) to SR-132, while maintenance crews finish repairs and begin paving this critical commercial corridor to ensure the safety of the traveling public.

The estimated time of opening for northbound lanes on I-5 is Friday, June 3, at 12:00 a.m. (midnight), and southbound lanes are estimated to open Sunday, June 5, at 12:00 p.m. (noon). The detour is six miles and drivers are experiencing 15 to 30 minute delays.

Paving of the two northbound lanes and adjacent shoulders is scheduled to begin today at 1:00 p.m. After that is complete, southbound I-5 will be excavated and the foundation for the roadway will be rebuilt. Those two lanes and shoulders will also then be paved and inspected.

The current delay is due to additional work required on the median, which separates the northbound and southbound lanes. This increased the scope of the work, and the median had to be rebuilt before the lanes could be paved.

Extreme heat – temperatures are forecast to top 100 degrees this weekend, including a projected high of 104 degree today – will slow the paving process. Workers are applying 18 inches of asphalt-concrete, returning this stretch of roadway to its previous height.

Asphalt-concrete is a viscous material that must be allowed to cool, so it can properly set for safety. Due to the heat, this cooling process could require up to five applications of three to four inches, gradually raising the surface of the road to its intended 18 inches. After each application cools, the following layer will be applied until the job is complete.

The safety of the workers, operating under the extreme heat, also remains a priority.

– More –





TRAFFIC ADVISORY

This section of I-5 is a major transportation corridor in the San Joaquin Valley and a lynchpin to the state's economy, transporting people, goods and services throughout California. Nearly 30,000 vehicles drive it on an average day, including some 7,000 big rigs and commercial trucks carrying everything from agricultural produce to electronics.

Caltrans discovered a sinkhole on the shoulder of northbound I-5, just south of SR-33, on Tuesday, May 31, and closed the roadway at noon. The initial sinkhole was 1 foot wide by 10 feet deep, but crews were required to excavate the roadway while searching for the source of the void.

An investigation determined that a hole in a 40-year-old, abandoned 36-inch corrugated steel irrigation culvert allowed soil to be displaced, producing the sinkhole under northbound I-5. Maintenance crews began removing the culvert, and that work continued as the pipe approached the southbound lanes.

Southbound I-5 closed Wednesday, June 1, at 7:00 p.m. as crews began investigating those lanes for possible signs of failure. Caltrans decided to keep those southbound lanes closed so it could take core samples and determine the condition of the soil under the roadbed.

Though drilling did not identify voids beneath the surface, the decision was made early Thursday, June 2, to excavate the southbound lanes and remove the remainder of the culvert. "Excavation and rebuilding the base of the road would be the only approach that would assure the safety of the traveling public," the department's geotech division said.

Crews dug down 35 feet to remove the culvert and ensure that no additional sinkholes were present, and rebuilt the foundation of the roadway before they began paving.

This work is scheduled to begin as listed, but is subject to change due to traffic incidents, weather, availability of equipment and/ or materials and construction related issues.

#

For the safety of workers and other motorists, please Slow For the Cone Zone.

##

www.dot.ca.gov

###

