



Corridor Newsletter #3

Major Milestones Achieved

By *Gustavo Dallarda, Corridor Director*

This summer the Interstate 15 (I-15) Express Lanes construction team achieved several major milestones, paving the way for smoother travel for you.

In the South Segment, we've completed half of our bridge work. The Poway Road/Rancho Peñasquitos Boulevard and the Carroll Canyon Road bridges should be fully completed next spring. We know bridge work affects many of you, but we work hard to decrease these impacts whenever possible. In fact, when traffic was switched on the Carroll Canyon Road



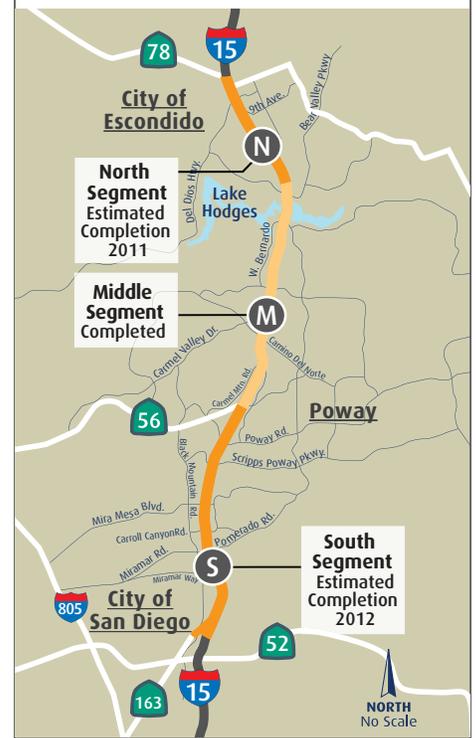
The new south side of the Carroll Canyon Road bridge now has a temporary pedestrian walkway.

bridge, our Corridor Manager Cory Binns worked with the contractor to alter the original plans by building a temporary pedestrian walkway to free up more space on the bridge for additional lanes. The story below describes how our project design also prevented another bridge from needing to be reconstructed, which reduced impacts and costs.

In the North Segment, crews are now working in the median to construct the new Express Lanes and soon will begin work on a new Direct Access Ramp (DAR). Crews have completed widening between State Route 78 (SR-78) and 9th Avenue/Auto Park Way, and they soon will finish widening from 9th Avenue/Auto Park Way to Centre City Parkway. The top story on the next page provides more detail about this progress.

We have appreciated your continued patience as we have reached these milestones. Read on to learn about our additional goals for 2010.

I-15 Express Lanes Corridor Map



Why are there Mountains of Concrete and Asphalt in the Middle of the Freeway?

These mountains in the South Segment used to be portions of the 25-year-old Express Lanes that were demolished in preparation for the new Express Lanes.

All of this crushed material may be disconcerting at first, but engineers worked to preserve as much of the old pavement as possible. However, in some locations this preservation wasn't

possible because of other project needs. Here's why we demolished portions of the existing Express Lanes, and some of the resulting benefits:

- ▶ We are lowering the profile of the existing Express Lanes, which avoids another costly and disruptive bridge replacement at Miramar Road/Pomerado Road.

- ▶ We are removing the 25-year-old concrete barriers that separate the Express Lanes from the general purpose lanes, which allows us to expand the Express Lanes from two lanes to four.
- ▶ We removed pavement where the existing Express Lanes were not at the same grade level as the general purpose lanes, which will allow us to create new access points that will enable vehicles to enter and exit the Express Lanes approximately every two miles.



The crushed concrete and asphalt from the previous Express Lanes will provide base material for over six miles of new Express Lanes, instead of using limited natural aggregate sources.

Lastly, to minimize construction waste, these mountains of crushed concrete and asphalt will be recycled back into the project as base material underneath the new Express Lanes.

Say Good-Bye to Extended Ramp Closures in Escondido

Starting in August, motorists in the Escondido area can breathe a sigh of relief and say good-bye to a series of planned ramp closures that were needed between SR-78 and 9th Avenue/Auto Park Way. This completed work means fewer disruptions and impacts to motorists.

These extended closures began in April and were necessary to reconstruct on and off-ramps and finish paving work to widen the outside of the freeway.

Caltrans and our contractor crews worked around the clock during these closures to keep impacts to the public to a minimum. The team kept the community apprised of our progress by distributing news releases and construction advisories and worked closely with the city of Escondido. Crew members even handed out flyers to drivers at the on-ramp meters during the morning commute.

Once ramp and widening work was completed, we shifted traffic in both directions to the outsides of the freeway. These shifts are a major milestone because moving traffic to the outside creates a workspace in the median where our crews can construct four new Express Lanes.

These traffic shifts also will allow our crews to begin work on the Hale Avenue DAR later this fall. This new DAR will allow vehicles to directly enter and exit the Express Lanes from Hale Avenue.



Construction crew members pave a section of the freeway alongside the Valley Parkway southbound on-ramp in Escondido.

Meet Martin Santos: Husband, Father of Four, Construction Worker

Martin Santos, 30, is a construction crew member for Atkinson Construction, a prime contractor for the I-15 project in Escondido.



Martin Santos drilling to retrofit a bridge.

What do you like about working on the project? Every day is different. Sometimes we're building trenches, laying drainage pipes, or paving asphalt and concrete cement.

What did you do today on the project? Today for example, I drilled into the bridge abutment because we needed to place rebar to retrofit the bridge (see photo at left). The work is never boring, and I enjoy the scenery.

Have you noticed a difference since the start of the project? Definitely, I've already noticed improvements in traffic, especially since we shifted the traffic to the outside lanes.

Do you feel your work contributes to the overall success of the Express Lanes project? Yes. We've had people in the community come up to us when we're grabbing lunch to ask about the project or tell us the freeway is already better.

What do you do in your spare time? I go to the beach and visit local amusement parks with my family.

Question of the Quarter

How Does Caltrans Keep the Community in the Know?

The I-15 outreach team makes every effort to stay in touch with the community. Attending community events is one way the outreach team informs the community about construction. Perhaps you've met one of our outreach team members at the Escondido Street Faire or the Scripps Ranch Community Fair this spring. We also e-mail news releases and hand deliver construction advisories to affected cities, businesses, and residents. More than 1,000 individuals and businesses along the corridor receive regular communications about I-15 construction.

Have a question you want answered? Let us know – maybe your question will be the next Question of the Quarter! Please feel free to call us at **858-668-3368** or visit **www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com** for more information.



Outreach team members at the Escondido Street Faire held on May 16.