MAJOR TRAFFIC BACKUPS EXPECTED

THANKSGIVING WEEKEND ON INTERSTATE 5 PIT RIVER BRIDGE

Caltrans advises motorists that the probability of long delays due to construction on the Pit River Bridge over Shasta Lake are expected throughout the Thanksgiving Weekend.

Thanksgiving is the most traveled holiday. Vehicle counts historically show an increase of 75% over normal daily traffic through this section of Interstate 5, ten miles north of Redding. This added volume will result in delays, some up to two hours, along with backups of 17 miles or more.

Operations on the two-year emergency deck replacement project have necessitated reducing traffic to one lane in each direction and speed reductions to 45 MPH. Conditions do not allow for opening of additional lanes and Caltrans asks motorists to be patient, plan extra time to reach their destinations and choose off-peak times to travel.

Caltrans will use changeable message signs, highway advisory radio and the internet, www.dot.ca.gov/dist2, to update motorists of delay times and backups. Travelers can also access road information by calling 1-800-GAS-ROAD or, if using your cell phone 511. For additional information regarding the Pit River Bridge Project call 530-225-3054.

ESTIMATES OF DELAYS AND BACKUPS

Wednesday, November 22, 2006

- NB I-5: Peak 2:30PM – 7:00PM, 20-30 minute delays, 4-5 mile backups
- SB I-5: Peak 2:30PM – 5:00PM, 8-9 minute delays, 1-2 mile backups

Saturday, November 25, 2006

- SB I-5: Peak 2:00PM – 9:00PM, 20-60 minute delays, 4-9 mile backups

Sunday, November 26, 2006

- NB I-5: Peak 12:00PM – 5:30PM, 4-18 minute delays, 1-4 mile backups
- SB I-5: Peak 12:00PM – 11:30PM, 20-120 minute delays, 3-18 mile backups

What to do to make your trip more comfortable:

- Make sure your vehicle is in good working order, with a full tank of gas before starting your trip.
- Bring along water, snacks and something to occupy any children traveling with you.
- Charge your cell phone battery.
- Inform others of your planned destination, and let them know when you have arrived.

The California Highway Patrol will enforce speed limits and a service patrol contractor will be available to assist overheated disabled vehicles.

PIT RIVER BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT

Caltrans