



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Long-Term Lane and Ramp Closures to Begin January 20 along Main Street in Corona**

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) announced today the start of the “Main Street Squeeze,” which will require lane and ramp closures on Main Street in Corona as part of the 91 Project, starting January 20.

Travel on Main Street will be reduced to two lanes in each direction between the westbound 91 ramps and Third Street through the end of 2016. K-rail will be placed on the outside shoulders to allow crews to work safely behind these barriers. Also starting January 20, the eastbound on-ramp to the 91 will be closed for approximately 15 months. Motorists may use Lincoln Avenue, Magnolia Avenue or Hidden Valley Parkway as alternate on-ramps.

The lane reductions and ramp closure will allow crews to rebuild the bridge, relocate utilities, lower the Main Street roadway, construct walls and widen sidewalks. In addition, Main Street will be widened at the request of the City of Corona to improve local traffic flow.

At a later date, left turns onto the westbound on-ramp for northbound Main Street motorists may be restricted. Later this year, a full closure of the Main Street westbound off-ramp will be required for approximately 10 to 12 months.

RCTC Executive Director Anne Mayer emphasized that the Main Street Squeeze work will enhance safety.

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## **91 Project Main Street Squeeze**

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“We know that lane closures and ramp closures are inconvenient for motorists,” Mayer said. “We ask for the public’s understanding, though, because we have to balance this traffic squeeze with the need for a safe working environment for our crews. By moving traffic away from our construction crews, we can create a safer workplace, and help these hard working men and women return home to their families each night.”

Corona Mayor Eugene Montanez encouraged motorists to continue to patronize local businesses.

“Construction can be hard on Corona businesses,” he said. “Stop by for a meal, get an oil change, fill up your tank, get a haircut, shop at one of our retailers -- shop local and tell our businesses how much you appreciate them.”

Corona Police Captain Jerry Rodriguez offered five travel tips during the Main Street Squeeze:

1. Allow extra travel time.
2. Make good driving decisions.
3. Pay attention.
4. Know alternate routes.
5. Watch for workers and equipment.

Captain Amanda Snowden of the California Highway Patrol reminded motorists of ongoing construction within the project limits on the 91 and Interstate 15 and the 55 mile per hour speed limit within this construction area. She also urged motorists to obey the “Move Over” Law, which requires travelers to move over a lane if it’s safe to do so when they see emergency vehicles or Caltrans vehicles on the roadside.

Led by RCTC, the 91 Project is adding regular lanes, tolled express lanes, auxiliary lanes and direct express lane connectors from the northbound 15 to the westbound 91 and from the eastbound 91 to the southbound 15. Improvements to interchanges, ramps, lanes and surface streets also will be made along the 91 between the Riverside County/Orange County Line in Corona and Pierce Street in Riverside. The new lanes are expected to open in 2017.

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