91 Project Overview

Afternoon traffic congestion on State Route 91 between Orange County and Riverside County is among the top trouble spots in the nation. Traveling the 91 is a challenge in either direction, any day of the week, including weekends.

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and its project partners are moving “Fast Forward” with the 91 Project. Extending from the Riverside County/Orange County line in Corona to Pierce Street in Riverside, the 91 Project will add regular lanes, tolled express lanes and connectors and improve interchanges, bridges, ramps and local streets. New connections between the 91 and Interstate 15 also will be made.

These improvements are designed to reduce delays, offer a choice between regular lanes and express lanes, allow faster emergency response, relieve local street congestion and provide better access to public transit and trails.

The 91 is approaching 50 years old, and the traffic demands now placed on it far exceed its original design from the early 1960s. Close to 280,000 vehicles travel this section of the 91 each day, and that number is expected to grow by another 140,000 vehicles daily by 2035. The 91 is the only major east-west route between Orange County and Riverside County and is used heavily for commuting, commercial transport and local travel.

Environmental approvals for this $1.4 billion project were received in late 2012. A design-build approach is allowing the same firm to finalize the design and construct the project, speeding up delivery by three to four years. Construction began in early 2014, with new lanes anticipated to open by 2017.

Southern California, Project Location

91 Project Improvements

For more information, visit the project website at sr91project.info
Project Milestones

>1980s
Congestion increases as western Riverside County grows

>1995
91 Express Lanes open, operated by private company

>2002
Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) makes agreement to buy 91 Express Lanes
RCTC passes renewal of Measure A with improvement project in sales tax measure

>2003
OCTA takes possession of toll lanes

>2004
Immediate improvement projects for auxiliary lanes and restriping begin

>2005
Major Investment Study completed

>2006
Project Study Report completed by Caltrans
Toll Lane Feasibility Study and 10-Year Measure A Delivery Plan prepared by RCTC
Westbound auxiliary lane project complete, SR-241 to SR-71

>2008
State Tolling Authority received

>2009
Federal Tolling Authority received

>2012
Environmental approvals received
Invitation to submit TIFIA federal loan application

>2013
Design-build contract awarded
Financing completed

>2014
Construction began

>2017
New lanes anticipated to open

By the Numbers

90: Number of minutes that express lane users can expect to reduce their round-trip commute during peak hours.

16,200: Number of jobs the 91 Project is forecast to create, with about 4,600 related to project construction.

$1.4 billion: Total project cost, provided by a combination of federal, state and local sources, as well as toll revenue bonds.

$664 million: Design-build contract amount.

3-4: Number of years saved by using a design-build approach, compared to a traditional design-bid-build approach

280,000: Average number of vehicles that travel the 91 each day. This number is expected to grow by another 140,000 by 2035.

80: Percent of Orange County 91 Express Lane users who said they plan to use the new RCTC tolled express lanes.

877-770-9191: The 91 Project’s helpline for questions and comments. Calls will be returned by the next business day.

CURRENT CONDITION

WESTBOUND

CARPOOL LANE

REAR VIEW MIRROR

FRONT VIEW MIRROR

FUTURE CONDITION

WESTBOUND