

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

All eastbound and westbound lanes on 91 in Corona now open

All lanes on the westbound and eastbound 91 reopened today by 3:30 am, marking the end of the 55-hour weekend full closure of the 91 between the 71 and I-15. Westbound lanes opened first, followed by eastbound lanes.

All on-ramps, off-ramps and connecting ramps also reopened, as well as the eastbound 91 Express Lanes and the northbound 241 to eastbound 91 toll road connector.

The weekend closure allowed crews to consolidate three significant operations and to perform the work efficiently and safely. Traffic was lighter than anticipated near the closure area and on the recommended detour routes.

Because of the excellent progress made this weekend on the new westbound Maple Street on-ramp flyover bridge, full closures of the eastbound 91 this week at night will not be needed, as previously expected. Intermittent nighttime rolling closures of selected lanes on the 91 near Maple Street may be required.

Riverside County Transportation Commission Executive Director Anne Mayer praised the closure effort.

"The 91 Steer Clear was an incredible success. The way to approach a complex operation like this is to plan the work, and work the plan – and that's exactly what we did," Mayer said.

"I am so proud of the 91 Project team for their excellent planning and execution of this weekend effort," she said. "The teamwork with the City of Corona, County of Riverside, California Highway Patrol, Caltrans and our neighboring agencies was essential and made this operation work as well as it did. Our transit partner, Metrolink, also helped make the weekend a success by adding train service and offering "2 for the price of 1" fares, which attracted 3,612 riders."

"We are grateful for the traveling public, who stayed away from the area, and the Corona residents, who stayed close to home and enjoyed their community. Most of all, congratulations to the men and women working for Atkinson/Walsh Joint Venture and the 25 subcontractors who accomplished so much in a short 55-hour period," she said. "They are awesome!"

The Riverside County Transportation Commission's 91 Project is adding regular lanes, tolled express lanes, auxiliary lanes and direct express 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.

For more information, visit <u>sr91project.info</u>, call the helpline at 877-770-9191 or email sr91project@rctc.org.

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