Riverside County Transportation Commission

# PRESS RELEASE

**Date:** **October 28, 2015**
**Contact:** John Standiford, Deputy Executive Director
(951) 787-7141 – Office
(951) 453-8249 – Mobile
Eliza Echevarria, Public Affairs Manager
(951) 235-9564 – Mobile

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

**New Bridge Deck to be Rebuilt; Nightly Closures for E. Grand Blvd.**

The contractor for the 91 Project in Corona will remove the newly constructed bridge deck over East Grand Boulevard beginning Monday night. The future 91 eastbound bridge may have sustained damage during a bridge lowering operation that injured nine workers on October 9.

Atkinson/Walsh Joint Venture (AWJV) has decided to remove the bridge deck and rebuild the bridge to ensure its long-term durability after opening to traffic. Full closures on East Grand Boulevard between Third Street and Joy Street will be required for bridge removal and falsework placement from Monday, November 2 to Sunday, November 8, from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m. each night.

Motorists should expect intermittent nightly closures during the next four weeks as crews replace the bridge deck and work on additional bridges over Grand Boulevard. The contractor will use a “build in place” method to rebuild the bridge deck, rather than the bridge lowering construction that was previously used. This will require reduced clearance under the bridge during construction, and high-profile trucks will not be able to travel under the bridge.

The cost of the demolition and reconstruction will not be borne by taxpayers and the additional work will not cause a delay to the overall 91 Project, which is expected to be completed in 2017.

“This is a wise and prudent decision by the contractor to rebuild the bridge. While it’s in a safe condition now, we need to ensure the long-term durability of the bridge, and the confidence and support of the public,” said Anne Mayer, Executive Director of the Riverside County Transportation Commission.

**-MORE-**

Of the nine workers hospitalized that night, five have been released. The cause of the accident is currently the subject of three independent investigations including Cal OSHA, Caltrans and KCE Structural Engineers.

Donations are currently being accepted for six of the injured workers, who have signed up for Workers Assistance Funds with the California Transportation Foundation at www.transportationfoundation.org/donate.

###