



PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time: February 20, 2016 – 11:30 am

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“91 Steer Clear” weekend work progressing on schedule

Approximately 13 hours into the full closure of the 91 in Corona, crews are making good progress on three separate, simultaneous operations under way on the closed roadway, according to the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), the lead agency for the 91 Project.

“The work is exactly on schedule for all of the three operations,” RCTC Executive Director Anne Mayer said.

Crews working on the demolition of the west half of the Maple Street bridge have completed cutting the top bridge deck, placed a “dirt blanket” over the eastbound and westbound 91 lanes, and removed and hauled away about 200 tons of concrete, which is about 10 percent of the 2,200 tons to be removed.

A second crew is working to install support beams for the new westbound Maple Street on-ramp flyover bridge. Using five cranes – two 265-ton cranes, one 120-ton crane and two 80-ton cranes – crews are placing “Super Beams,” which are steel I-beams measuring 120 feet long by 3 feet wide, over the westbound lanes. The crews have set 14 of the 29 Super Beams so far. They also have started placing the smaller beams on top of the newly placed Super Beams, and are beginning to build the wooden framework for the new structure.

Further east, a third crew is repaving a section of the eastbound 91 near Interstate 15. Workers have demolished and removed the old concrete and have just completed the layer

of embankment material for the new roadway. Crews are preparing to start placing aggregate subbase material to form the next layer of pavement.

To prepare for the work, the California Highway Patrol and traffic directors began closing lanes, ramps and connectors at 9 pm last night, and the six-mile section of the 91 between the 71 and I-15 was completely cleared by 10:15 pm.

Traffic this morning has been light, but Mayer cautioned that Saturday afternoon traffic typically is heavy in the area, so motorists should continue to steer clear from the area. Peak traffic for the region is at about 2 pm, she noted.

Mayer provided tips for those who must travel through the area:

- The eastbound Orange County 91 Express Lanes and the 241-North to 91-East connector are closed for this 55-hour period to reduce the flow of traffic into the closure area. The westbound 91 McKinley Street on-ramp also is closed.
- Avoid the 91, 71 and I-15 near Corona. Other options are the 57, 60, 10, 210, 215, or 605. Drivers who use the 91, 71 or I-15 may encounter delays of three to four hours.
- Consider Metrolink, which has partnered with RCTC to double the number of trains on the 91 Line and Inland Empire Orange County Line and to offer “Two for the Price of One” fares on Feb. 20 and 21. Visit metrolinktrains.com for information.
- Monitor traffic conditions by observing Caltrans overhead changeable message signs, which will be updated throughout the weekend, and by using mapping applications, such as IE511.org or mobile apps for IE511, Waze and others.
- Follow “sr91project” updates on social media, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The City of Corona has created a list of 55 things to do during the 55-hour closure, and the city and RCTC are hosting a “Staycation” social media contest.

An Incident Command Center is housed at the City of Corona’s Traffic Management Center, where staff are viewing and responding to real-time traffic conditions. Staff members are prepared to make adjustments to traffic signals, dispatch law enforcement and send tow trucks to areas, where needed.

First responders have full access to the closed routes to respond to traffic, medical or domestic emergencies. Additional units are on hand during the weekend and stationed strategically in Corona and in neighboring areas. Eight extra Freeway Service Patrol vehicles are operating today and tomorrow to offer free roadside help to stranded motorists.

No pedestrians, cyclists or other members of the public will be allowed to access this closed section of roadway.

“Trespassers on the 91 right of way, which includes lanes, on-ramps, off-ramps and embankments, will be cited by law enforcement personnel,” said CHP Lt. Pete Recatto.

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 sr91project.info, call the helpline at 877-770-9191 or email sr91project@rctc.org.

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