



PRESS RELEASE



16-042

Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2016

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes Open on State Route 91 Through Riverside

RIVERSIDE - The California Transportation Department (Caltrans) and Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) announced today the completion of the new High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes on State Route 91 (SR 91), a milestone for the freeway improvement project that began in March 2012.

Led by Caltrans in partnership with RCTC, the project closed a six-mile carpool gap between Adams Street and the 60/91/215 Interchange. The new eastbound HOV lane opened in March and the new westbound lane opened this morning.

The opening of these lanes marks the substantial completion of the 91 HOV Project. In addition to the new lanes, the project also included improvements to the on and off-ramps at 14th Street, Central Avenue, Arlington Avenue, the relocation of the 9th Street westbound SR 91 on-ramp to 10th Street, and new bridges at 14th Street, Ivy Street and Cridge Street. Minor construction work will continue to install erosion control measures. This will be completed over the next few months and will have minimal impact to traffic.

The new HOV lanes are expected to reduce traffic congestion and delays, improve emergency response times and enhance air quality through this heavily traveled corridor.

The State Route 91 HOV Project was funded in part by Riverside County’s Measure A, a half-cent sales tax, approved in 1988, to improve local transportation county-wide. “The completion of this project provides the traveling public who elect to carpool a dedicated lane from county line to county line and it greatly improves motorist’s ability to access the downtown Riverside area”, stated John Bulinski, District 8 Director for Caltrans.

“The improved circulation, aesthetic features and expanded off-ramps throughout downtown Riverside leaves a legacy that was worth the wait”, stated Anne Mayer, Executive Director for RCTC. Mayer continued, “With the newly opened lanes in Riverside, this confirms our commitment of ‘promises made -- promises kept’ to the residents of Riverside County.”

Separate contracts to complete work on the Union Pacific railroad line on SR 91 and install the final landscaping will wrap up the planned improvements. The railroad work is expected begin next year and will conclude in late 2017. Landscaping will commence once the statewide drought restrictions imposed by Governor’s Executive Order are lifted.



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