



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction Begins on \$1.3 Billion Widening of the 91 Project Include General Purpose and Express Lanes

Earlier today, a throng of more than 250 people celebrated the beginning of construction for the widening of the 91 Freeway through Corona. The \$1.3 billion project adds general purpose lanes, tolled express lanes and provides a number of interchange improvements and is expected to create 16,200 jobs over the next three and a half years during construction.

A number of federal, state, and local officials attended a formal groundbreaking ceremony at the North Main Corona Transit Center to mark the beginning of construction including Brian Kelly, Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency.

“This project’s innovative financing approach supports important improvements to a critical link between the Inland Empire and Orange County,” said California State Transportation Agency Secretary Kelly. “The Express lanes will give drivers new transportation choices while helping public transit and carpools reach more destinations.”

The Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) is the lead agency for construction on the project which is being funding through a combination of sales tax

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bonds and the local Measure A Transportation Sales Tax program. The design-build project will be constructed by Atkinson-Walsh a joint venture which has opened offices in Corona.

Nearly 280,000 vehicles travel SR-91 daily, and this number is expected to grow by another 140,000 vehicles daily by 2035. Once completed in early 2017, the 91 Project will expand transportation choices, reduce delays, allow faster emergency response, relieve local street congestion, and offer better access to public transit and trails.

“This design-build project was made possible by a strong partnership between Caltrans and RCTC,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. “When complete, drivers will spend less time on the road and will allow trucks and freight to be hauled more efficiently.”

Local officials including Corona Mayor Karen Spiegel who also serves as the Chair of RCTC are eager for the project to get started.

“We have needed a significant and lasting improvement to this freeway for decades,” said Spiegel. “This project, along with other transit improvements including Metrolink and bus service from RTA and OCTA will truly change life for the better for those who depend on this corridor.”

A concerted public outreach campaign will be conducted to alert commuters and residents of construction impacts of the project. Those seeking more information can access the project website at www.sr91project.info.

Mayor Spiegel also urged patience during the construction period.

“Construction projects like this can be inconvenient while they are being built, but will offer lasting benefits for generations to come,” said Spiegel. “Learning to appreciate construction is part of our investment in a better future.”