



NEWS RELEASE

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District: 8 – San Bernardino
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS CONTRIBUTES TO I-10 EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN FOR THE LOW DESERT

San Bernardino – Motorists traveling through the Low Desert will have new tools to help with their trip. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has installed two new Changeable Message Signs (CMS) and Sixty-One Vehicle Detection Stations (VDS) along I-10 between Beaumont and the Arizona State Line. The projects are two of the actions Caltrans has agreed to complete in support of the I-10 Emergency Action Plan that is led by the County of Riverside. Caltrans will also install five Median Cross-Over's and three additional Changeable Message Signs. The Emergency Action Plan was created to address several high-profile traffic jams that have occurred in recent years.

“Changeable Message Signs will allow us to deliver information directly to the drivers before they encounter large traffic back-ups,” said Caltrans Director Basem Muallem. “Motorists will be able to take an alternate route to avoid long delays.” The CMS's were installed on I-10 just east of US-95 (Blythe) and on I-10 Just east of SR-177 (Desert Center).

The Vehicle Detection Stations will provide speed and volume information for the entire segment. Travel Times will be displayed on the CMS to inform people how long their trip will take. Each station is equipped with a camera which posts a snapshot of the traffic conditions to the Internet every few minutes. These snapshots can be viewed at the IE 511 site: <http://www.ie511.org/real-time-traffic.aspx>. The high quality images give user a very good picture of traffic related issues that may be occurring in the Low Desert.

“We are very pleased to see Caltrans move ahead with their pieces of the plan,” said Riverside County Transportation and Land Management Agency Director, Juan Perez. “The Traveler Information projects will be completed by the end of this year with the larger freeway bypass projects coming later.” Riverside County is working on several projects to close gaps on local roadways where there is no alternate route to the Freeway. Once complete, the projects will both inform travelers of what's ahead, and provide an alternate route around any major closures they may encounter.

The cost of the CMS Project was \$424,000. The cost of the I-10 portion of the VDS project was \$1.7 million.

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