



NEWS RELEASE

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District: 8 - San Bernardino

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CYCLISTS GAIN TEMPORARY ACCESS TO DESERT HIGHWAY WHILE ROUTE 66 IS REPAIRED

SAN BERNARDINO – Cyclists in San Bernardino County are no longer getting their kicks on historic Route 66, which is closed for storm repairs. As a result, Caltrans (District 8) has partnered with Adventure Cycling to provide cyclists with temporary access to portions of Interstate 40, which runs parallel to the National Trails Highway as it runs through the county.

Storm damage to pavement and some bridges on U.S. Route 66 has resulted in closures to some areas of the route. Cycling enthusiasts and Adventure Cycling, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to inspire and empower people to travel by bicycle, approached Caltrans earlier this year requesting bicycle access to the interstate. The temporary cycling access to I-40 will be available only until the county makes repairs to Route 66.

Caltrans District 8 Director Basem Muallem and his staff began talks in late January with Adventure Cycling to work out a plan to allow two bike access locations on I-40, which traverses between Barstow and Needles. The two access points will be from Fort Cady (Exit 23) to Ludlow (Exit 50) – about 28 miles apart -- and also from Kelbaker Road (Exit 78) to Mountain Springs Road (Exit 115) – about 42 miles apart. Caltrans will install signs indicating that cyclists are permitted within these sections of I-40 by this spring.

“Caltrans strives to promote all modes of transportation — cycling is one of these,” Muallem said. “We hope that by providing access to I-40, cyclists will continue to take advantage of designated portions of the state highway system as an alternative to driving vehicles.”

Caltrans is advising both motorists and cyclists to be extra cautious and conscious of one another and to “Share the Road” on California’s roadways. The California Vehicle Code (CVC 21200) specifies where and how bikes can operate and declares that cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities as motorists. The National Trails Highway in the County is under the jurisdiction of San Bernardino County Public Works.

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