



PRESS RELEASE

12-108

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District: 08 – Riverside County
Contact: Michelle Profant
Phone: (909) 383-4416
(909) 383-4631

AIRPORT BOULEVARD & STATE ROUTE 86 INTERCHANGE CELEBRATION

Riverside County – Caltrans will be hosting the opening of the new \$6.1 million Airport Boulevard and State Route 86 Interchange project this week. Caltrans will welcome local elected officials and their representatives along with the Coachella Valley Associated Governments. The celebration will take place on the new bridge deck on May 4, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Guests will include Manuel Perez, Assemblyman 80th District; Eduardo Garcia, Mayor of the City of Coachella; Tom Kirk, Director, Coachella Valley Associated Governments; and Michelle DeArmond, Chief of Staff, Office of Riverside County Supervisor John Benoit.

"Local residents are excited to see this bridge open after 13 months of construction," said Caltrans District 8 Acting Director Syed Raza. "The opening of this bridge should relieve local traffic congestion and make travel through this area much safer, easier, and efficient. I'd like to thank our project partners, the community, SEMA Construction, their sub-contractors, and Caltrans personnel for their efforts to reach this milestone."

Construction began in April 2011 on the new structure which is located on State Route 86 in the Coachella Valley. This construction project replaced the ground level intersection with an interchange carrying Airport Boulevard traffic over the State Route 86. It also added three 12-foot wide lanes, left turn pockets at the on ramps, two 8-foot wide shoulders, traffic signal controlled on and off ramps and a 6-foot wide sidewalk on the south side of the bridge.

The bridge is tentatively scheduled open to traffic on Friday, May 11. Workers may also remain on the job site after that date doing final work. The Department wants to thank the community for their ongoing support during construction.

Slow for the cone zone!

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