



PRESS RELEASE

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INTERSTATE 215 WIDENING PROJECT PHASE 2 RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

San Bernardino – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) hosted a ribbon cutting ceremony today for Phase 2 of the Interstate 215 Widening Project through downtown San Bernardino.

“This project is a solid investment in this region's infrastructure and a great example of collaboration between the state, regional agencies and local governments,” said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim. “It is providing much-needed jobs for the local economy and will reduce congestion for generations of motorists in the Inland Empire.”

Construction on Phase 2, led by Caltrans, began in December 2007. The project added two new lanes in each direction on I-215, expanding the freeway from six lanes to ten lanes from just north of I-10 to Rialto Avenue, added new on-and-off-ramps, widened Mill Street, and constructed a new bridge at Inland Center Drive. Construction on Phase 1, which reconstructed the Fifth Street Bridge, was led by SANBAG. It began in February 2007 and was completed in February 2008.

Caltrans Director Cindy McKim was joined at today's ceremony by SANBAG Vice President Bea Cortes, city of San Bernardino Mayor Patrick Morris, State Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, San Bernardino County Supervisor Josie Gonzales, and other state and local officials, as well as community members.

SANBAG, as the county transportation authority, obtained the funding for this phase, which totaled \$177 million. “All four phases of the project represent a combination of many pots of funding, including Federal, State and local sources,” said SANBAG Vice President Bea Cortes. In 2009, \$128 million was secured from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, as well as \$81 million in Proposition 1B funding. Cortes lauded Congressman Jerry Lewis, who was instrumental in obtaining a large portion of federal funding. “We owe our gratitude and appreciate for his successful efforts,” she said.

This four-phase project is a collaborative effort between Caltrans, SANBAG and the city of San Bernardino. The project spans a 7.5-mile stretch at an estimated cost of \$723 million. The entire project starts on the I-215 from just north of I-10 to University Parkway. Phases 3 & 4 will continue widening I-215 from Rialto Avenue to University Parkway. They include additional bus/carpool and mixed-flow lanes, 17 new bridges, new on-and-off-ramps, a wider freeway and I-215/SR-210 connector ramps.

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