



NEWS RELEASE

06-454

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District: 8- INLAND EMPIRE

Contact: Terese Lagana

Phone: (909) 383-4416 (work)
(951) 232-3718 (cell)

CONNECTOR RAMP AND FULL FREEWAY CLOSURE MAKES WAY FOR RAISING THE 91 FREEWAY

RIVERSIDE – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will conduct a full freeway closure on the eastbound 91 as well as connector ramp closure from eastbound 60 to northbound 215. The closures will begin at 10:00 p.m. on Friday, December 1st to 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 2nd. During the closure new lane striping, shifting of k-rail and the posting new signs will be put into place. On Saturday morning, the connector ramp and one to two lanes of traffic will be opened. The eastbound 91 traffic will then be diverted onto the newly paved roadbed where motorists now access Spruce Street and the 60/215 Connector. The remaining lanes will be opened later that day, by approximately 12:00 noon.

As part of the 60/91/215 improvement project, this closure is the first step in creating a new elevation of the 91 Freeway in both the east and westbound directions. Presently, motorist experience a dip in the freeway. This phase of construction will eliminate the dip and the potential for flooding by raising the freeway approximately 30 feet. This will also accommodate the connection of the new westbound flyover ramp to the freeway.

During the closure, motorists are warned that eastbound traffic should proceed with caution, as all traffic will exit 14th Street to follow the detour route. This detour will take traffic back to the 60/215 freeways at Central Avenue. The detour is expected to add at least 30 minutes of travel time. Signs will be posted to guide motorists.

From EB 91 to NB 215/WB 60:

Exit onto 14th Street off ramp, turn right, 14th turns into Martin Luther King, right on Canyon Crest Drive, left on Central Avenue, and onto NB 215.

From EB 60 to NB215:

Continue east on the 60/215, exit University Avenue, turn left under the freeway, and right on the on ramp to the NB 215.

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When the work is completed and opened to traffic on Saturday afternoon, the eastbound lanes will be shifted to the right onto the newly paved roadbed at Spruce Street. Motorists can continue to access Spruce Street and the 60/215 Connector, as well as the connection back onto the northbound 215. Delays can be expected. No work is scheduled on the westbound lanes at this time.

This work is the first of three phases that will result in raising the 91 Freeway to its new elevation and tying in the westbound connector ramp. The second phase will take place on the existing eastbound 91-roadbed and the third phase will take place on the westbound direction of the 91. The completion of all three phases is expected to take approximately 12 months. Motorists wishing to avoid the construction area are strongly encouraged to take an alternate route.

It is extremely important that travelers be aware of the new alignment, pay attention to the signs and be aware of other drivers on the road. Monday morning commuters could be surprised by the new alignment if they are not alert. For more information, please visit our website at www.caltrans8.info or call our Public Affairs office at the number listed above.

Caltrans would like to thank motorists for their patience as we continue to make progress on building the improvements on the 60/91/215 interchange. Caltrans asks that motorists please be aware of the construction area and always make a point to *SLOW FOR THE CONE ZONE*.

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