



CRUISIN' THROUGH CONSTRUCTION

Interstate 215 Widening Project, San Bernardino

July/August 2010, Issue 42



First Phase of Freeway Widening COMPLETE!



Local and state electeds help cut the ceremonial ribbon, marking the completion of the first phase of I-215 freeway widening.

On July 22, golden scissors ceremoniously cut through stretched red ribbon, marking the completion of another major milestone of the Interstate 215 Widening Project. The celebration of the completion of freeway widening between Orange Show Road and Rialto Avenue was held atop the parking structure of the Inland Center Mall and was hosted by Caltrans and SANBAG.

As Master of Ceremonies, Mayor Pat Morris warmed up the audience with comments centering on the success marked by the completion of this phase (Phase 2) of the project. Calling the full 7.5 mile project area a "ribbon of commerce," Mayor Morris highlighted goods movement, economic

vitality, and community connectivity as primary achievements of this transportation investment.

Those sentiments were echoed by other dignitaries in attendance that included Caltrans Director Cindy McKim, Caltrans District 8 Director Dr. Ray Wolfe, SANBAG Vice-President Bea Cortes, San Bernardino County 5th District Supervisor Josie Gonzales, State Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod, and State Assembly Member Wilmer Amina Carter. Additional dignitaries, project personnel, local business leaders, and members of the public made up the audience and saw first hand the partnership of all involved that made this phase of the project a success.

Big thanks to Inland Center Mall for providing coupon books to attendees! Haven't received yours yet? Head to the mall to get your book today.

Long Term and Permanent Closures



As construction continues on I-215, please note the following closures:

Southbound I-215 5th Street Off-Ramp – Closed starting June 21, 2010 while crews construct the new ramps that connect directly to the 5th Street bridge. New ramps are expected to open Spring 2011.

4th Street On-Ramps – Eliminated and will be replaced with ramps directly on the 5th Street bridge.

9th Street Bridge – Closed to drivers and pedestrians until late 2010.

Southbound I-215 Baseline Avenue Off-Ramp – Closed until the new ramps are constructed in Fall 2013.

Northbound Highland Avenue Off-Ramp – Closed permanently and reconfigured with access to Highland Avenue via a collector road.

Northbound Highland Avenue On-Ramp – Closed long-term while crews construct the collector road.

27th Street/Mt. Vernon Avenue Southbound On-Ramp and Northbound Off-Ramp – Closed starting April 2 for approximately two years when new bridge is complete.

Southbound I-215 to Eastbound SR-210 Connector – Closed until September 2010.

Support Mt. Vernon Corridor Businesses

San Bernardino's westside is home to a number of fantastic restaurants, community services, and businesses. As drivers take the southbound 3rd Street detour, make sure to patronize those locations listed below on Mt. Vernon Avenue, often referred to as the Old Route 66.

Mitla Cafe, one of the area's most popular Mexican restaurants, is located on the corner of 6th Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue and serves delicious authentic food Tuesday through Sunday. Two other Mexican food restaurants are great in the area as well. **Amapola Rico Taco** has been serving the Inland Empire for more than 25 years with five locations in the City of San Bernardino and **Pablo's Taco Bender** located at Baseline Avenue and Perris Street is great for lunch or dinner.

Just north on Mt. Vernon Avenue by Victoria Street, **Fonseca's Discount and 99 Cent Store** offers patrons the latest in party supplies for weddings, birthdays, quinceañeras, and more at affordable prices.

So don't forget to check these places and others on the Westside the next time you are in the area. Or, if you're planning a get together, these restaurants and others on Mt. Vernon Avenue cater special events and can help make your party one to remember. Be sure to check out their Web sites below for locations, hours of operation, and contact information:

Mitla Cafe (909) 888-0460
www.mitlacafe.com

Amapola Rico Taco (909) 884-3006
www.amapolaricotaco.com

Pablo's Taco Bender (909) 885-1914

Fonseca's Discount and 99 Cent Store (909) 889-1604

For travel information dial:
511

Or visit:
www.IE511.org



Crews Make Progress on Bridges Throughout Corridor

For commuters and residents passing through the I-215 corridor, watching the newly widened bridges take shape is hard to ignore. Among the 17 bridges that will be reconstructed as part of the I-215 Widening Project, there are three bridges currently taking center stage - the Baseline Avenue, 9th Street and Highland Avenue bridges.

During the month of July, crews worked at the Baseline Avenue bridge to construct the bridge stems and temporary bridge structure was placed. What's more, the first major concrete pour was conducted the last week of July. Since construction began on the bridge in late 2009, construction crews have worked day and night to widen this bridge to include turn lanes for exiting and entering the freeway.

The 9th Street bridge is also being widened, further opening the connection between the east and west sides of the City of San Bernardino. Construction crews have worked through much of July placing rebar, or reinforced steel, along the bridge deck to provide a strong foundation for the structure.



Crews place temporary bridge structure and reinforced steel at the new Baseline Avenue bridge deck.



The final pieces of temporary bridge structure are placed over the railroad at 9th Street to complete the base of the new bridge deck.

Construction began on the Highland Avenue bridge in early 2010. Temporary bridge structure on this bridge has also been a priority for construction crews. Once finalized, crews will place rebar and make the first concrete pour in mid-August.

Upon completion, these bridges will accommodate many more drivers and ease the connection between the eastern and western sides of San Bernardino.



The I-215 Widening Project is a partnership among San Bernardino Associated Governments, the California Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration and the City of San Bernardino.

Project Questions?

For questions or to request a presentation about the widening of Interstate 215, call the toll-free helpline, **1-877-215-NEWS**.

The I-215 Widening Project is now on Twitter. Follow us @215NEWS.

