

# News from SANBAG and Caltrans



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## **Open House to Offer Look at Upcoming Construction of New I-10 Riverside Avenue Interchange**

The City of Rialto, San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and the California Department of Transportation will host a community meeting next month to offer a sneak peek of what to expect during reconstruction of the Riverside Avenue interchange with Interstate 10 in Rialto.

The meeting will be held Feb. 2 from 4:30 pm to 7 pm at the Rialto Senior Center, 1411 S. Riverside Avenue, Rialto.

Residents, businesses operators, commuters and other interested parties are encouraged to attend to speak to project planners, view maps and learn about planned detours during construction. The meeting will be held in an “open house” format with no formal presentation.

The project will widen the bridge over Interstate 10 from five lanes to nine lanes and add one new lane to each of the freeway on-ramps and off-ramps. The section of Riverside Avenue between the freeway and Valley Boulevard also will be widened.

Heavy traffic volumes at the interchange cause frequent congestion on the bridge and at the ramps, creating safety problems and delays for drivers. The new project will ease traffic congestion, improve emergency response times and reduce air pollution. The Riverside Avenue interchange is one of several projects planned along I-10 that are designed to improve traffic flow and air quality.

“The Riverside Avenue interchange is well known for its traffic bottleneck, with heavy use by cars and big-rigs. We’re excited to partner with the City of Rialto and Caltrans to deliver this project,” said SANBAG Executive Director Deborah Barmack.

SANBAG awarded a construction contract earlier this month, and work on the freeway ramps is expected to begin within the next two months. The bridge over the freeway will be demolished and

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replaced, requiring its closure for approximately seven months, starting in late 2010. During the bridge closure, drivers will be detoured to Cedar Avenue, Pepper Avenue, Valley Boulevard, Slover Avenue and Agua Mansa Road. Some road improvements have been made to the planned detour routes. The entire project is scheduled to be complete by late 2011.

The \$34 million project is being funded by a combination of federal, state and Rialto Redevelopment Agency bonds.

A ground-breaking ceremony will be held Feb. 18 in the parking lot of Hometown Buffet in Rialto to officially mark the start of the project.

For more information, please call the project helpline, (909) 889-8611, extension 102. Calls made to the helpline will be returned by the next business day.

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