

News from SANBAG and Caltrans



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Agencies to Break Ground for I-10 Riverside Avenue Interchange Improvements in Rialto

The City of Rialto, San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG) and the California Department of Transportation will mark the start of reconstruction of the Riverside Avenue interchange with Interstate 10 in Rialto next week.

The agencies will host a groundbreaking ceremony on February 18 at 10 am in the parking lot of Hometown Buffet, 127 W. Valley Blvd., adjacent to the project area.

The ceremony will feature remarks by Rialto Mayor Grace Vargas, Rialto Councilmember Ed Scott, SANBAG President Paul Eaton, San Bernardino County Supervisor Josie Gonzales and representatives from state and federal elected offices. Construction of this long-awaited project will begin this month by the contractor CC Myers.

“The new Riverside Avenue interchange will greatly improve access across the freeway bridge and remove this traffic chokepoint on Interstate 10,” said SANBAG Executive Director Deborah Barnack. “This project, along with new interchanges at Citrus and Cherry, will make a significant difference to traffic flow along the I-10 corridor.”

Crews 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.

Work should take about two years to complete. During the first six to eight months, crews will widen the freeway on-ramps and off-ramps. Existing ramps will remain open during the widening, with minimal impact to drivers.

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In early fall, the five-lane bridge over I-10 will be closed for approximately seven months for demolition and reconstruction, and detours will be in place to separate drivers from construction activity.

During the bridge closure, drivers wishing to cross over the freeway 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. Freeway ramps will remain open during the bridge closure.

The bridge is expected to reopen to motorists in spring 2011, and the full project should be complete by late 2011.

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

Originally estimated to cost a total of \$34 million, the project cost has dropped to \$27.2 million, due to lower than anticipated construction bids. The project is being funded by a combination of federal, state and Rialto Redevelopment Agency bonds.

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. You also may visit the project website at www.sanbag.ca.gov/projects/interchange_riverside.html

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