



Metro

JULY 1, 2015

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON PAW
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: SHAHRZAD AMIRI SA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER, CONGESTION REDUCTION

SUBJECT: I-10 EXPRESS LANES SIX-WEEK CLOSURE AT PECK ROAD AND VALLEY BLVD

ISSUE

Beginning on the evening of July 6th 2015, Caltrans will close a half mile section of the I-10 ExpressLanes in both the east and west directions between Peck Road and Valley Boulevard for a period of six weeks to implement safety enhancements. The closure will be 24 hours a day for the ExpressLanes section and as needed on the General Purpose (GP) lanes. Drivers in the ExpressLanes will have to merge out of the ExpressLanes into the GP lanes prior to the construction zone. It is anticipated that the closure will increase traffic congestion in the area. Caltrans and Metro are taking steps to inform the public and ExpressLanes customers of the closure.

Background

The Caltrans led construction project will remove the freeway bridge decking above both Peck Road and Valley Boulevard bridge undercrossings. The work is required to permanently remediate the bridge decking structure where previously a hole had formed and was temporarily fixed.

Metro ExpressLanes Staff along with representatives from CHP, Metro Operations, Foothill Transit and Assembly Member Roger Hernandez's Office, recently attended a meeting with Caltrans staff and the construction contractors to learn about the details of this project. ExpressLanes staff suggested evening closures of the ExpressLanes consistent with the closure planned for the GP lanes. However, after discussion, Caltrans indicated it would not be possible to perform this work without a full closure of the ExpressLanes.

Concerns were also expressed to Caltrans about the timing of the construction project as it will coincide with the Special Olympics which may cause additional traffic congestion in the area. Caltrans had indicated it would be preferable to close the ExpressLanes and perform the work during the summer months when traffic volumes are historically lower rather than after Labor Day when schools are back in session and traffic volumes increase.

The beginning half mile portion of I-10 Westbound ExpressLanes and the half mile end portion of the I-10 Eastbound ExpressLanes will be impacted by the closure. Barriers will be placed around the construction zone and will follow a Caltrans approved traffic handling plan. The plan will provide signage approximately 2 miles out from the construction site indicating roadwork ahead. Approximately one mile away, signs will indicate that ExpressLanes End in 1 Mile. Remaining signs and portable arrow boards, arrows painted on the pavement as well as channelizers will be installed to safely direct drivers out of the ExpressLanes and into the GP lanes prior to the construction zone.

Traveling in the Westbound ExpressLanes:

- Prior to the construction location, those traveling in the ExpressLanes will be required to merge into the GP lanes.
- After the construction zone, drivers will be able to enter the ExpressLanes.
- Customers traveling in this section are not normally tolled and will not experience any change in pricing.

Traveling in the Eastbound ExpressLanes:

- Prior to the construction location, those traveling in the ExpressLanes will be required to merge into the GP lanes.
- After the construction zone, drivers will be able to enter the ExpressLanes.
- Under regular operating conditions, ExpressLanes customers traveling in the segment that do not meet the HOV occupancy requirements would be charged for 3 miles. However due to the location of the construction zone and where drivers will be required to merge into the GP lanes, the tolled portion of this segment will be reduced to 1.5 miles. So during construction, ExpressLanes users will only be charged for the distance they traveled. Any distance traveled after the construction zone will not be tolled.

Since the ExpressLanes price is a combination of price per mile based on congestion levels and the distance traveled, by reducing the length of the tolled segment, the toll pricing will be reduced for all toll paying customers.

NEXT STEPS

Public outreach will be performed by Caltrans and Metro. Caltrans will be sending out a press release and notifying the public via print media, radio and distributing flyers to local residents and businesses in the area, while Metro will provide notification of the closure through the following channels:

- Email to all ExpressLanes Customers
- Postings in the ExpressLanes Customer Service Centers
- Closure message on the Dynamic Message Signs at I-10 EB at Fremont Avenue and I-10 WB at Durfee Avenue
- Latest news section of the metroexpresslanes.net website
- The Source
- go511.com website
- ExpressLanes social media accounts (Twitter & Facebook)