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The I-405 widening project will construct a new Mulholland Bridge over the I-405, as shown in this rendering.

405 Freeway Widening Project Receives \$730 Million from State

By NED RACINE, Editor

 Fully funded project will add 10-mile-long carpool lane to northbound 405

(Oct. 2, 2008) In the largest single allocation to a highway project in its history, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) has earmarked \$730 million in Proposition 1B funds to the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project.

The Sept. 23 decision means the \$950-million project is fully funded, according to K.N. Murthy, deputy chief capital management officer. Metro has contributed \$13 million, the federal government has added \$130 million and the state will later provide an additional \$90 million to the project.

Info Online: I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project

"This project is all about mobility," Murthy believes, "moving more people and moving them faster."

Although the CTC funding was a significant step toward completing the project—most notable for adding a 10-mile-long high-occupancy vehicle (carpool) lane to the northbound I-405—Murthy emphasizes the project has been aggressively moving toward its mid-2013 opening.

"Things are moving according to schedule," Murthy said, noting that Metro and Caltrans are partners in constructing the project.

With the completion of the northbound carpool lane (the southbound side already has a carpool lane) between the I-10 and 101 freeways, drivers in

high-occupancy vehicles will be able to take carpool lanes from Orange County to the 101 Freeway.

"This is the last link that needs to be finished," said Murthy. "That's why all the funding is in place."

Given its heavy use by automobiles and trucks, planners expect the widened I-405 to offer traffic relief for connecting freeways and surface streets miles away.



The fully funded I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project will add a 10-mile-long high-occupancy vehicle (carpool) lane to the northbound I-405 between the 10 (Santa Monica) and 101 (Ventura) freeways.

Besides widening the I-405, the project includes constructing 21 structures: rebuilding interchanges, demolishing and rebuilding three bridges (Mulholland, Skirball and Montana), constructing new ramps and improving adjacent city streets.

One example of this will be rebuilding the northbound ramp to the I-405 from Wilshire Boulevard.

"All this must be done while maintaining traffic flow," according to Murthy, offering a piece of good news to drivers.

Simultaneously, the City of Los Angeles will be shifting Sepulveda Blvd. to the west between the 10 (Santa Monica) Freeway and the 101 (Ventura) Freeway.

Murthy anticipates a prime contractor being selected by April 2009. Drivers should see signs of construction with utility relocation in early 2009. And, by the winter of 2009, scaffolding and other signs of heavy construction should be apparent.

The scale of the project can be seen in the amount of materials needed to complete the widening work:

- 700,000 cubic yards of earth will be removed
- 500,000 cubic yards of earth will be placed
- 285,000 cubic yards of concrete will be poured
- 110,000 tons of asphalt will be laid