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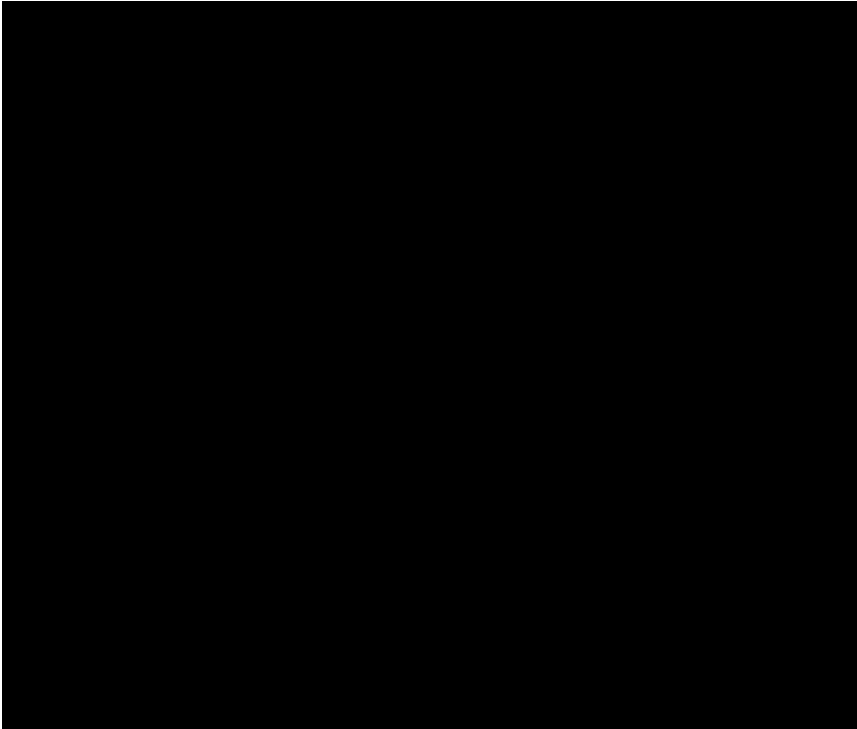
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Video by Rich Morallo. Not hooked up to YouTube at work? Watch at home at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rfgASU6lNuY> NOTE: This YouTube link is being sent to you for the purpose of viewing the Metro video only. Metro employees are subject to the Employee Code of Conduct that generally restricts the use of company time/equipment to conducting Metro business. Please click on icon above to view the video.

Work Crews Begin Project to Widen Sepulveda Pass on I-405

By Rich Morallo
Community Relations / Volunteer Coordinator

(Feb. 16, 2010) Driving at any time on the San Diego Freeway can be at best a harrowing and at worst a scary experience for even the most experienced motorist.

But try driving it when the routinely teeming freeway is closed to traffic at 1:00 a.m. on an otherwise moderately busy Friday morning.

"We're inspecting traffic control, making sure detour cones are placed properly, coordinating with the CHP, and monitoring striping activities," said John Trevino of the Kiewit Pacific Company.

Along with his partner, Zack



Kiewit Pacific Company staff at I-405 closure, from left, John Trevino and Zack Strawn. Below, safety's

Strawn, Trevino was tasked with coordinating work on a stretch of the I-405 Sepulveda Pass Widening Project, which calls for the construction of a 10-mile northbound carpool lane on the San Diego Freeway (I-405) between the Santa Monica Freeway (I-10) and the Ventura Freeway (US 101).

This morning, their responsibilities covered activity on a three-quarter mile slice of the freeway from Wilshire Boulevard to just south of the Montana Avenue off-ramp, shifting traffic lanes to the west and establishing a work area along the eastern edge of the freeway.

Traffic lane realignment activities began with sandblasting and erasing traffic lane stripes, laying out the new traffic lane configuration and installing new pavement markers and stripes.

When the realignment work is completed, traffic lanes will be reconfigured from the I-10 to Valley Vista Street in Sherman Oaks.

Construction crews will then be able to start on the installation of sound and retaining walls at several locations, the laying concrete paving and the re-location and installation of displaced underground utilities.

"We'll be striping about 4000 feet," said Trevino, summarizing the progress of the 35-person crew.

"Key to our work is safety," added Strawn, wearing a hard hat, construction boots, safety vest, gloves and protective eyeglasses. "Everybody goes home safe."

The work under Trevino and Strawn's supervision is part of the first phase of a three-year Caltrans/Metro project expected to significantly enhance traffic flow on what is considered to be one of the busiest freeways in the entire country..

And the early morning work seemingly never ends.

The next night Trevino, Strawn and the other team members were at it again, altering the flow of the eerily deserted freeway.

first for the I-405 work crews who begin the nighttime work-day with stretching and flexing exercise routines. [Click here](#) or on image for Rich Morallo's on-the-scene Snapshot.

