



NEWS RELEASE

I-15/RAILROAD CANYON RD SOUTHBOUND DECELERATION LANE PROJECT BEGINS

The new deceleration lane, slated for completion this fall, is expected to improve the safety of motorists exiting Railroad Canyon Rd. by relieving some of the back up on Interstate 15 (I-15).

LAKE ELSINORE (July 15, 2015) – This week the City of Lake Elsinore will kick off construction on Southbound I-15 and Railroad Canyon Road Interchange to build a new 1,400 foot long deceleration lane.

Most major construction work for the project is expected to occur during weekdays from 6:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Night work will be required July 15th, 16th and 19th for the installation of temporary construction barriers and re-striping of the freeway. Night work will be between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. and will require the closure of freeway lanes 2 and 3, as well as a complete closure of the southbound Railroad Canyon Rd. exit ramp. No closures are expected to be performed during peak traffic hours. The project is scheduled to be completed by early October 2015.

Lake Elsinore Mayor, Steve Manos, explained, “While this project will not relieve congestion, it is an important first step in improving safety until the ultimate Railroad Canyon Interchange Project is completed.”

The City of Lake Elsinore is currently in the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) phase for the I-15/Railroad Canyon Road & Franklin Interchange Project. In cooperation with the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) and Caltrans, the City is studying four alternatives to improve the interchange. The City anticipates construction for this project to start no sooner than 2017 or 2018.

In the interim, the southbound deceleration lane safety improvement project will begin approximately a quarter mile before the southbound exit ramp and, when completed, will provide a place for motorists to cue while waiting to exit the freeway. During construction, the freeway shoulder will be closed in order to construct the deceleration lane. Drivers are advised to use alternate routes when possible and give themselves extra time for their commute.

Detour signs will be used during ramp closures to direct motorists to use the Main Street exit or continue south to Bundy Canyon Rd to exit the freeway and enter northbound Bundy Canyon to head back to the northbound I-15 Railroad Canyon Rd. exit.

(MORE)

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Once barriers have been installed this week, all work will be done behind the barriers to complete the project.

The project will include the creation of a new deceleration lane, new roadway signs and striping, one overhead sign structure, two new overhead panel signs with LED fixtures and drainage modifications.

On June 9, 2015, the City Council awarded a construction contract to Highland Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$858,555. Construction management services for the project are being handled jointly by City Engineering Staff and Falcon Engineering Services. The project is being funded by Caltrans and the City of Lake Elsinore.

For more information about this project or to report any concerns, please call (951) 549-9600 or visit www.lake-elsinore.org.

For more information, please contact: Nicole Dailey, Management Analyst, (951) 674-3124 ext. 314

About the [City of Lake Elsinore](http://www.lake-elsinore.org): *The City of Lake Elsinore features Southern California's largest natural freshwater lake. It is the second oldest and fastest growing city in Riverside County, incorporated on April 9, 1888. The City's current population is estimated at approximately 58,426. The City's brand and slogan, "Dream Extreme," exemplify the scenic beauty and active lifestyle of this 127-year old boomtown. Visitors and residents enjoy water sports such as skiing, power boating and fishing, a world-class sky diving drop zone, a regional motocross track, professional baseball, an 18-hole golf course, outlet shops, plus dining and entertainment in Historic Downtown. Visit www.Lake-Elsinore.org for more information.*