



NEWS RELEASE

Date February 20, 2020
Contact John Standiford
Deputy Executive Director
951.453.8249 Cell 951.787.7969 Office
jstandiford@rctc.org

For immediate release

Route 60 Westbound Lane Set to Reopen March 5 in “Badlands”

Traveling through the Route 60 Badlands in Riverside County will be easier soon, with the reopening of a lane that closed last summer for construction. The Riverside County Transportation Commission will reopen the Route 60 westbound lane between Beaumont and Moreno Valley on March 5, marking a milestone for the Route 60 Truck Lanes Project.

To prepare for the lane reopening, the CHP will be conducting intermittent daytime traffic breaks of 5-10 minutes the week of February 24 to allow crews to move k-rail and equipment. In addition, the nights of February 24-28, westbound Route 60 will be fully closed and one eastbound lane will be closed for crews to check pavement quality, make repairs and reset k-rail. Nighttime lane closures will occur from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.

RCTC closed the westbound lane August 23 to allow crews to safely excavate dirt from the hillsides to carve out space to build a truck lane in both directions and widen the inner and outer shoulders. Reopening the lane now will allow traffic to flow more smoothly during the April festival season in the Coachella Valley.

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During the closure, crews excavated 1.3 million cubic yards within the project area – about 60 percent of the total 2.1 million cubic yards that need to be excavated for the project.

Closing the westbound lane created safer conditions for motorists and construction crews and saved overall project time. Originally planned as a 3.5-year project, the lane closure has reduced a year of construction time and should allow the project to be completed in about 2.5 years or in late 2021.

RCTC has been operating special construction-related Freeway Service Patrol roving tow trucks to help stranded motorists during the westbound lane closure. Tow truck drivers assisted more than 1,600 motorists, including 134 with flat tires, 205 with mechanical problems, 75 with overheated engines and 74 who ran out of gas.

Once the westbound lane reopens, work will shift to the section north of the k-rail next to the westbound lanes. Crews will be grading and placing a sub-base and base material for the new truck lane and shoulder north of the k-rail, and then paving will start this summer on these lanes. After the paving is complete, drivers will be able to use the newly paved lanes, and then crews will work in the Route 60 median to pave the inside shoulders. Following that stage, crews will focus on the eastbound lanes.

For more information about the project and to register for weekly construction updates, visit [60 Truck Lanes Project](#).