



## NEWS RELEASE

**Date** June 15, 2020

**Contact** John Standiford  
Deputy Executive Director  
951.453.8249 Cell 951.787.7969 Office  
jstandiford@rctc.org

### **Transportation Projects in Riverside County Hit 10-Year Peak, despite COVID-19 Pandemic**

Across western Riverside County, 13 transportation projects are under way – the largest number of simultaneous construction projects overseen by the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) since 2010.

The projects, with a total construction cost of \$721 million, will ease traffic congestion for area residents while adding approximately 10,000 jobs to the local economy as the county grapples with economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic.

“Despite the challenges of COVID-19, RCTC has kept all projects on or ahead of schedule,” said RCTC Chair and Wildomar City Council Member Ben Benoit. “Our commission has not paused its investment in vital transportation needs.”

Crews are continuing work on the Interstate 15 Express Lanes through Jurupa Valley, Eastvale, Norco and Corona and the Route 60 Truck Lanes between Moreno Valley and Beaumont. Key new projects and their construction costs include:

- Building a tolled connector between the 91 Express Lanes and the future 15 Express Lanes (\$194 million)
- Adding a general-purpose lane to westbound 91 between Green River Road in Corona and the 241 Toll Road (\$27 million)
- Building a new interchange at Interstate 215 and Placentia Avenue in Perris (\$36 million)

-- MORE --

## **RCTC Construction Projects Hit New Peak**

### **Page 2 of 2**

- Upgrading the interchange at Interstate 15 and Railroad Canyon Road in Lake Elsinore (\$33 million)
- Renovating the Riverside-Downtown Metrolink Station to accommodate more overnight train storage and on-site maintenance (\$5 million)

By continuing work during the pandemic, RCTC has provided timely transportation improvements throughout the region, provided local jobs through the award of several competitive bids to Riverside County construction firms, and reduced the impact to motorists and train users by conducting work during stay-at-home periods.

Two projects that were open for construction bidding amid the pandemic drew more and lower bids than forecasted. As a result, taxpayers will save a combined \$21 million – roughly 27 percent – on the I-215/Placentia and I-15/Railroad Canyon interchanges.

RCTC also is actively seeking funding to rebuild the 71/91 Interchange in Corona by submitting applications for two federal transportation grants and three state transportation grants. If funding is secured, work could begin in 2022.

Meanwhile, to protect essential project workers, RCTC is requiring a range of pandemic safety measures. These include limiting staffing of field offices, special training for crews, social distancing, frequent disinfection of equipment and workspaces, use of personal protective equipment, and a prohibition on sharing tools.

“RCTC has continued to prioritize safety, efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and public service through better transportation,” Chairman Benoit said. “It is gratifying to keep so many projects moving during an incredibly challenging time.”