



NEWS RELEASE

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Construction continues of 15 Express Lanes; lanes to open spring 2021

Construction and tolling contractors for the Riverside County Transportation Commission are placing the finishing touches on the new 15 Express Lanes in Jurupa Valley, Eastvale, Norco and Corona, with the opening planned in spring 2021.

Work will continue during the coming months to ensure a safe, reliable commute for future customers. The project remains under budget and last week the agency's Commissioners voted to allocate a significant portion of those fund savings to a new project on Interstate 15 south of the 15 Express Lanes.

Since August, team members have been testing the tolling system to make sure the new express lanes open smoothly this spring. The lanes will feature "dynamic tolling," which adjusts tolls to real-time changes in traffic conditions to help traffic flow smoothly. This type of tolling differs from the variable pricing system used on the 91 Express Lanes, in which tolls are adjusted every 90 days to reflect quarterly traffic patterns. RCTC is conducting ongoing tests to ensure the tolling infrastructure, pricing signs, and account charges all operate correctly. The new Riverside Express Customer Service Center also is nearly complete, and staff will undergo extensive training prior to opening.

"RCTC is excited to open the new lanes in the spring and we are working hard to get it right so that our customers have a positive experience," said RCTC Chair and Wildomar City Council Member Ben J. Benoit. "We look forward to offering this new travel choice in Riverside County."

In addition to testing, crews are focusing on other final project work, including drainage improvements before the rainy season. Last winter, the construction team noted sections of

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roadway where water ponding could occur. Crews began replacing sections of pavement this week between the 91 and Cantu Galleano Ranch Road to add drainage pipe. This work will continue during the months ahead with periodic nighttime closures of the left lane of I-15 in both directions. Motorists can receive construction updates by signing up [here](#).

Motorists are reminded to not drive in the new express lanes until they open in the spring. With ongoing construction and toll system testing, driving in these lanes places the lives of construction crews and other drivers at risk. RCTC created this [video](#) to remind motorists, “Don’t Go There: Crews Still at Work.”

Safety has remained an important part of the 15 Express Lanes Project. Crews and team members take part in frequent briefings related to construction activities and received training related to COVID-19 earlier this year. Throughout the pandemic, the project has remained on track and has employed more than 3,000 people, helping to aid in Riverside County’s economic recovery.

Thanks to efficient project management, RCTC allocated \$25 million of unspent budget from this project to the new 15 Corridor Operations Project earlier this month. This funding will provide additional traffic relief with a new non-tolled lane to southbound I-15 between Cajalco Road and Weirick Road, where the roadway will drop from five lanes to three lanes, after the 15 Express Lanes open. The project is complex and requires widening two I-15 bridges over the Bedford Canyon Wash. Engineering and environmental studies are starting now. Construction should begin in 2023 and be complete by 2024.

In conjunction with the opening of the 15 Express Lanes, construction will start this spring for the 15/91 Express Lanes Connector. The connector will link the eastbound 91 Express Lanes directly to the northbound 15 Express Lanes and the southbound 15 Express Lanes to the westbound 91 Express Lanes. Engineers have been working behind the scenes during the pandemic. The project remains on track to meet the completion deadline associated with \$180 million in state funding secured for the project. The connector will provide about 2,300 jobs and is scheduled to open in 2023. Learn more [here](#).