



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

New Truck Lanes to Open May 20 on Route 60 in Riverside County's Badlands

Motorists making the trek between the Coachella Valley and western Riverside County will have a safer and more efficient way to travel with the opening tomorrow afternoon of the Riverside County Transportation Commission's Route 60 Truck Lanes in the county's "Badlands."

RCTC began construction of the \$138 million highway investment in June 2019 with Caltrans providing design and construction oversight. The project is opening on time and within budget.

"This project has fully transformed the Route 60 corridor from a narrow, winding, roadway to one that is wide open, safe, and a great new way to drive between the Coachella Valley and western Riverside County," said RCTC Chair and Riverside County 4th District Supervisor V. Manuel Perez. "RCTC's investment in Route 60 has provided a stronger way to connect our residents," he said.

The project added an eastbound truck-climbing lane and a westbound truck-descending lane for 4.5 miles between Gilman Springs Road and 1.4 miles west of Jack Rabbit Trail, between Moreno Valley and Beaumont. Built next to the outer shoulders in both directions of Route 60, the truck lanes separate slower-moving big-rigs from passenger vehicles that can use the two left lanes in both directions.

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Route 60 Truck Lanes Now Open

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In addition, the project widened the inner and outer shoulders and excavated 2.1 million cubic yards of dirt from the steep hillsides to add another 30 feet next to the outer shoulders. The wider shoulders and open space provide safe pullout areas for motorists and emergency responders.

The project also flattened the curving roadway to improve sight distance for drivers, another safety benefit.

Animals have a safer way to cross Route 60 as well, thanks to the construction of two 20-foot by 20-foot by 200-foot wildlife crossings and extension of culverts that allow coyotes, bobcats, mountain lions, deer, and other animals to travel beneath the highway to seek food and mates. The crossings also help prevent collisions between motorists and animals.

Funding was provided by a combination of federal, state, and local sources and employed approximately 1,400 workers.

Closeout work will continue during the weeks ahead with nighttime lane closures likely. Please continue to follow @60trucklanes on social media or visit the project website, rctc.org/60trucklanes for updates.

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