

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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For immediate release

## All Lanes on Southbound I-15 Reopen Tonight in Corona, Ahead of Schedule

Construction crews for the Riverside County Transportation Commission's 15/91 Express Lanes Connector Project reopened all southbound Interstate 15 lanes tonight, nine hours ahead of schedule.

The southbound I-15 lanes north of the 91 were fully closed Friday at 10 p.m. and through the weekend, along with the southbound I-15 on-ramps at Second Street and Hidden Valley Parkway, and portions of the southbound 15 Express Lanes.

Cars began traveling through the reopened roadway on Sunday at just before 8 p.m., ahead of the scheduled opening on Monday at 5 a.m.

Crews worked since Friday night to build the support structure for the future connector, which will provide a seamless link between the 15 Express Lanes that opened in April 2021 and the 91 Express Lanes that opened in March 2017.

The weekend full closure of the southbound I-15 lanes allowed crews to work safely and efficiently. About 150 crew members were in the field to complete the work, which involved using cranes to place large steel beams and shorter cross beams to form the support structure to build the connector.

Motorists were encouraged to avoid the area by using Route 60, Route 71, and Interstate 215 as regional detours and to allow extra travel time.

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This was the second weekend full closure for the project. All lanes on westbound 91 in Corona were closed the weekend of January 28; this closure also opened ahead of schedule.

While the project remains under construction until 2023, two additional weekend closures will be scheduled for crews to remove the support structures they placed over the 91 in January and over I-15 this weekend. Please watch for future notifications.

The \$270 million investment is a partnership of RCTC and Caltrans. Construction began in April 2021. Once completed, the connector is intended to reduce traffic congestion, enhance safety due to less weaving among lanes, and improve travel time reliability between the two tolled facilities.

For project details and to register for construction updates, visit <u>rctc.org/15-91connector</u> or text CONNECTOR to (844) 771-0995.

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