



NEWS RELEASE

Date June 2, 2022
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For immediate release

RCTC, Caltrans, CHP Celebrate Opening of Route 60 Truck Lanes with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony Today

Officials from the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), the California Department of Transportation, and the California Highway Patrol celebrated the opening of the newly built Route 60 Truck Lanes during a ceremony June 2 in Beaumont.

The eastbound truck-climbing lane and westbound truck-descending lane opened May 20, ahead of schedule and within budget. RCTC began construction of the \$138 million investment in June 2019 with Caltrans providing design and construction oversight.

The new lanes now offer a safer and more efficient way to travel between the Coachella Valley and western Riverside County through the county's "Badlands." The lanes stretch 4.5 miles – from Gilman Springs Road to 1.4 miles west of Jack Rabbit Trail – between Moreno Valley and Beaumont. Built next to the outer shoulders in both directions, the truck lanes separate slower-moving and faster-moving vehicles.

RCTC Chair V. Manuel Perez, who also is the Riverside County 4th District Supervisor, spoke about the importance of the project to every city and every community in the Coachella Valley.

"This project will provide a huge boost for the Coachella Valley tourism industry. This is a big deal for public safety reasons, a big deal for tourism reasons," he said.

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Route 60 Truck Lanes Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

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Perez also noted that 2022 is shaping up to be a strong year for project delivery for RCTC. The agency opened the I-15 Railroad Canyon Interchange in Lake Elsinore in April, expects to open the I-215 Placentia Avenue Interchange in Perris in late summer, and is scheduled to start reconstructing the 71/91 Interchange in Corona by the end of the year.

Riverside County 5th District Supervisor and RCTC Commissioner Jeff Hewitt highlighted the project's safety features and the benefits to goods traveling through the Route 60 corridor, noting that trucks now have a dedicated lane. The truck lanes have great significance to the area for goods movement, similar to the opening of the transcontinental railroad, he said.

Beaumont Mayor and RCTC Second Vice Chair Lloyd White spoke about added safety with the project's new wider highway shoulders and barriers and how Route 60 is a viable alternative to heavily traveled Interstate 10. He also noted RCTC's plans to begin engineering and environmental studies for the I-10 Highland Springs Avenue Interchange in Beaumont and Banning, a proposed project to improve safety and relieve traffic congestion.

As part of the Route 60 project, crews built taller concrete median barriers to reduce glare from oncoming headlights and flattened highway curves to help with motorist visibility. Animals have a safer way to cross the roadway with the construction of two 20-foot by 20-foot by 200-foot wildlife crossings 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.

The project employed approximately 1,400 workers with funding provided by a combination of federal, state, and local sources.

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. In addition, please follow @theRCTC on social media for ongoing transportation news throughout Riverside County.

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