

NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release. Aaron Hake will be available for virtual, on-site, or phone interviews on Friday, October 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Avoid the Area: Full Closure of Eastbound 91 in Corona Set for October 21-24 with Heavier Traffic Effects Expected

Motorists should plan ahead and avoid the 91 in Corona this coming weekend. A full closure of eastbound 91 is set for Friday, October 21 at 10 p.m. to Monday, October 24 at 5 a.m. to allow crews for the Riverside County Transportation Commission's <u>91 Refresh Project</u> to continue to repave lanes.

The closure is needed for the safety of motorists and crews while the paving work is under way. Crews will be removing and repaving the outer four travel lanes near the Buena Vista Avenue undercrossing to give motorists a smoother ride.

This weekend's closure will have a greater impact on traffic than the two previous closures on eastbound 91 in Corona last month. All eastbound 91 lanes will be closed between Lincoln Avenue and Main Street in Corona. The eastbound 91 Express Lanes in Riverside County and the eastbound 91 onramps at Auto Center Drive/Serfas Club Drive, Maple Street, and Lincoln Avenue will also be closed.

Drivers headed east from Orange and Los Angeles counties are strongly advised to steer clear of the 91 by using northbound 57, the preferred route, or northbound 71 to connect to eastbound 60. See map.

Travel east of the 71 is expected to be especially heavy and should be avoided by through-traffic. Drivers headed to local destinations who continue past the 71 should exit before Lincoln Avenue, which will be used as a turn-around detour for through-traffic. Those who continue to Lincoln will be required to exit, turn back onto westbound 91, and then travel to northbound 71 to connect to the 60 for eastbound destinations. Due to the turnaround at Lincoln, traffic delays also are likely on westbound 91 heading to Corona. In addition, the westbound 91 Express Lanes will be closed this weekend in Orange County, which may further impact travel to the west.

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Local travelers should avoid the Lincoln area if possible. However, Lincoln-area businesses will remain open. Customers may access businesses along Lincoln, D Street, and Second Street by following signs. Drivers will be unable to use the Lincoln Avenue bridge except to enter westbound 91, but pedestrian access will be maintained.

Residents should consider riding Metrolink as a travel option to bypass the closure. Roundtrip weekend fares are \$10 across southern California. Visit metrolinktrains.com for schedules and other details.

Construction activity is subject to change due to weather or other factors. If the repaving cannot be completed this weekend, it will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

The 91 Refresh Project is a partnership between RCTC and Caltrans to repave lanes and repair sound walls and concrete barriers along the outer portions of eastbound and westbound 91 in Corona. Work will occur mainly between the Lincoln Avenue interchange and Interstate 15, an area with a long history of roadway settlement.

Construction will take place through the fall, with more weekend closures on the 91 to be announced.

To register for construction updates, text 91REFRESH to 77222 or visit rctc.org/91refresh.

A virtual news briefing was held October 18 about the Oct. 21-24 closure. A link to the briefing is provided here: https://youtu.be/dsTVK-ZNT8k Please note that Mr. Hake's available for follow-up interviews has changed from what was stated in the news briefing to **Friday, October 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**