



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Final Design to Start for New Segment of Mid County Parkway in Riverside County

The Riverside County Transportation Commission will begin preparing documents to advance to construction more than half of the planned length of the Mid County Parkway transportation corridor.

The Commission awarded a contract on September 14 to develop construction plans, specifications, and cost estimates to improve 8.6 miles of Ramona Expressway from Warren Road to about one mile east of Rider Street in the County of Riverside. This segment is within the Mid County Parkway, a planned 16-mile corridor between Route 79 in the Hemet Valley and Interstate 215 in Perris.

Also referred to as the MCP, the new east-west corridor is expected to open economic opportunities, reduce travel times, and expand access to employment and education for residents and businesses of Riverside County. The improvements will promote transportation equity for this long-underserved area and connect to Route 79, Interstate 215, and transit facilities that support Metrolink's 91/Perris Valley Line and Riverside Transit Agency routes. With this connection, the Perris and San Jacinto valley communities will have access to multiple modes of travel.

This spring, RCTC deferred final design of a previously identified three-mile MCP segment from Redlands Avenue to Ramona Expressway to address high priority safety needs along the 8.6-mile Ramona Expressway segment. This segment has a history of vehicle collisions. Between 2017 and 2022, the County of Riverside reported 31 collisions, of which 14 were fatalities and 17 resulted in severe injuries.

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The Ramona Expressway segment currently has one lane in each direction with a passing lane between 5th Street and Bridge Street. The improvements will provide two lanes in each direction, add a raised median to separate the eastbound and westbound lanes, build a bridge over the San Jacinto River, modify three intersections with traffic signals, install one new signalized intersection, and construct a wildlife crossing. The improvements are focused on safety and access.

RCTC has partnered with the County of Riverside, which contributed \$1 million toward future construction in this segment. If funding is secured, construction could begin in 2025 and take about two years. RCTC has not determined the timing for construction of additional MCP segments; these contracts will depend upon available funds.

Construction of the [Interstate 215 Placentia Avenue Interchange](#) in Perris, the first MCP segment, began in August 2020 and is scheduled to open this fall.

For more information and to register for updates, visit the [project website](#).

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