

Caltrans Update

Fresno Council Of Governments

“Caltrans improves mobility across California”



Special points of interest:

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) has allocated \$825 million in new funding to 92 highway, transit, and rail projects that will strengthen California's economy and upgrade the state's vast transportation system. The allocations included nearly \$9 million from Proposition 1B. To date, the state has allocated nearly \$8 billion in Proposition 1B funds. Included in this new allocation are the following projects:

Madera County - \$139,000 to construct pedestrian and bicyclist undercrossings at Schnoor Avenue as part of a Walking/Bike Trail in the City of Madera.

Fresno County - \$339,000 in the City of Kingsburg to install safety median islands and aesthetic landscaping on Sierra Street between Bethel Avenue and State Route 99.

Tulare County - \$173,000 for a project that will construct a Transit Center-Main Street Streetscape in the City of Visalia, along Santa Fe Street between Murray Avenue and Main Street.

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Quarterly Update on Fresno County Projects:

Fresno - Westside Expressway—State Route 180 Route Adoption Study:

The Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement comment period has closed. A public hearing was held on March 30, 2011. A final environmental document (ED) is being prepared for a selected alternative. The final ED will be approved early next year. For more information contact: Bob Hull, Project Manager, (559) 243-3443.

Fresno - Route 145 Intersection Improvement Project— State Route 145 and Jensen Avenue intersection improvement: Roundabout demonstration is scheduled for the Kerman City Council on July 13th, 10 am. For more information contact: Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

North Fresno Six Lane—State Route 99: The Contractor started October 2010 and is completing work on structures in the median. Median barrier and pavement work began in April 2011. For more information contact: Jim Bane, Project Manager, (559) 243-3469.

Fresno - Herndon Auxiliary lanes—SR 41:

In construction and on schedule. Anticipate construction will be completed by January 2012, but project is ahead of schedule.

For more information contact: Anand Kapoor, Project Manager, (559) 243-3588.

Fresno-Ramp Metering from Ashlan to Herndon—Route 41:

In construction; anticipate construction will be completed by January 2012, but project is ahead of schedule. For more information, contact: Anand Kapoor, Project Manager, (559) 243-3588.

Fresno - State Route 180 Braided Ramps:

The Request for Proposal was released May 26, 2011. A number of design/construction firms have teamed up to bid on the first design-build project in Fresno County. For more information contact: Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 488-4115.

Fresno - Kings Canyon Expressway Segment 1 Four Lane Expressway—State Route 180: In construction, completed westbound lanes and switched traffic onto new lanes.

Eastbound lanes will be open to traffic near the completion of the project in late summer 2011. For more information contact: Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 488-4115.

Fresno - Kings Canyon Expressway Segment 2 Four Lane Expressway—State Route 180:

Project is currently in the design and right-of-way acquisition phase; scheduled to begin construction in the summer 2013. For more information contact: Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 488-4115.

Fresno - Route 269 Bridge Project:

Amending the project into the 2010 SHOPP for support costs only. Once completed, will be ready to begin environmental and preliminary design process. For more information contact: Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 488-4115.

Selma CAPM— State Route 99 from Floral Ave to Merced Street:

In construction with an expected completion date of October 2011. For more information contact: Steven Milton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3456.

Amtrak California Ridership and Revenue Off the Charts



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California motorists left the highways in record numbers over the past 12 months to ride two of California's highly successful intercity passenger rail corridors, Caltrans announced today.

Led by the San Joaquin corridor, which serves the Central Valley, linking Los Angeles and Bakersfield with Sacramento and the Bay Area, California's state supported intercity passenger rail corridors had banner years. Compared to May 2010, ridership on the San Joaquin, the nation's fifth busiest rail corridor, shot up over 12 percent with a 19 percent increase in revenue.

The Pacific Surfliner, the second most popular rail corridor in the nation, links San Luis Obispo with San Diego via Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. It experienced a 4 percent climb in ridership and a 9 percent hike in revenue.

"These incredible ridership and revenue numbers show that by providing reliable, high quality service, Californians will leave their cars to ride trains," said Acting Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

With five million annual passengers, California has more than 20 percent of all Amtrak riders. Since 1990, Caltrans has invested more than \$1.3 billion in infrastructure and equipment for intercity passenger rail and about \$1 billion in operating support.

Amtrak California

Amtrak California is a partnership between the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and Amtrak. Caltrans is the largest passenger rail capital assistance program in the nation.

Amtrak

Amtrak is America's Railroad, the nation's intercity passenger rail provider and its only high-speed rail operator. A record 28.7 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2010. Amtrak operates more than 300 trains each day – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – connecting more than 500 destinations in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak provides service in partnership with 15 states and four commuter rail agencies.



Pacific Surfliner

Caltrans Worker Killed

Richard Gonzalez, a 52-year-old Caltrans maintenance worker, died shortly before 9 a.m. on June 20, 2011 after being struck by a vehicle while he was picking up litter along the northbound Interstate 15 connector ramp to eastbound State Route 94 in San Diego.

He is the third Caltrans worker to die on the job in 48 days - the most ever in such a short period of time.

On May 4, Stephen Palmer, Sr. was struck by a trolley and killed in National City near San Diego. On June 7, Jaime Obeso was killed by an errant vehicle while working on Interstate 8 in Imperial County.

“Every day, highway workers put their lives in danger just by going to work,” said Acting Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

“These three tragic incidents are sobering reminders that we all must do everything we can to keep our highways safe. Motorists must slow down, watch out for highway workers and safely move over a lane when passing work crews.”

Caltrans will be posting notices on its statewide network of more than 700 electronic highway message signs reminding motorists to watch out for Caltrans employees. Flags will be at half staff on

Caltrans buildings across the state in remembrance of Caltrans workers who have needlessly lost their lives this year.

Highway construction and maintenance work is one of the most dangerous occupations in the United States. The risk of death is seven times greater for highway workers than for the average worker. Caltrans employees face the dangers of fast-moving traffic on a daily basis. Since the 1920s, 178 Caltrans employees have died while on the job.

Caltrans is asking all motorists to remember these five easy tips for driving safely in highway work zones or anywhere there are orange cones, temporary barriers, or signs alerting them to work being done in the area:

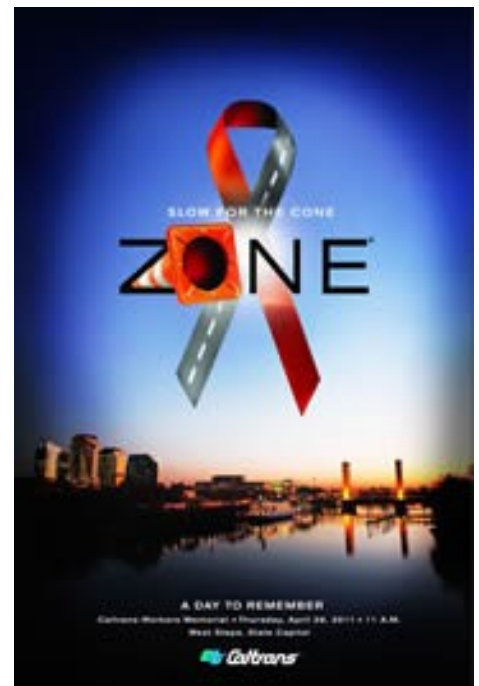
- Reduce your speed significantly;
- Allow for extra following room;
- Expect sudden stops;
- Avoid distractions; and
- Never drive impaired

In addition to the danger to workers, drivers and passengers are at risk from unsafe driving in highway work zones. An estimated 85% to 90% of people who are killed in highway work zones are drivers and passengers.

Nationally, on average, nearly two work zone fatalities occur every day or about one every 13 hours. In addition, an average of 84 work zone injuries occur every day – averaging one every 17 minutes.

Fines are doubled in highway work zones because lives are on the line. Fines can easily total \$1,000 or more for drivers who speed, drive aggressively, text or are otherwise distracted, or cause collisions in a highway work zone.

Most work zone fatalities are caused by rear-end collisions. Driver distraction, inattention, and aggressive driving are most often the reasons.





*Caltrans
District 6*

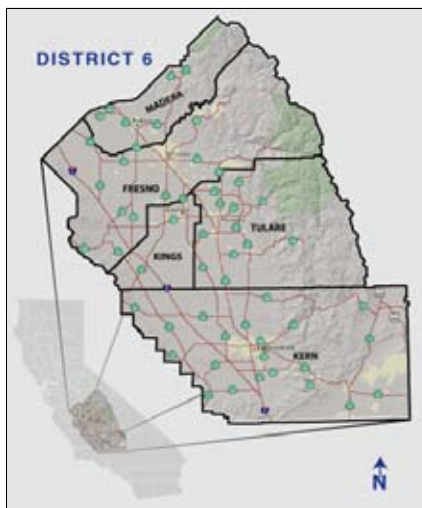
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www.dot.ca.gov/dist6/

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 6 is headquartered in Fresno. This geographically diverse district is the second largest of the 12 Districts statewide, stretching from the southernmost part of Yosemite National Park in the north to the Mojave Desert. It includes Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties. Interstate 5 and State Route 99 run the length of District 6, serving as the main north-south arteries for not just the Central Valley, but for the entire state as well.



The Adopt-A-Highway Program



The Caltrans Adopt-A-Highway Program provides an avenue for individuals, organizations, or businesses to help maintain sections of roadside within California's State Highway System. Groups have the option to participate as volunteers or to hire a maintenance service provider to perform the work on their behalf.

The Adopt-A-Highway program, which began in 1989, has been

one of the truly successful government-public partnerships of our time. More than 120,000 Californians have cleaned and enhanced over 15,000 shoulder-miles of roadside.

Participation can include one or more of the following activities:

- Removing litter (work frequency varies with location).
- Planting and establishing trees or wildflowers.
- Removing graffiti.
- Controlling vegetation.

Adoptions usually span a two-mile stretch of roadside and permits are issued for five-year periods. Groups in good standing may renew their permits indefinitely.

For more information on the Adopt-A-Highway Program, contact:

Deanna Hornback (559) 488-4022 (South Fresno, Western Kern, and Tulare Counties); or

Rafaela Leal, (559) 445-5394 (North Fresno, Kings, and Madera Counties)

