



Pres. Obama Touts 91 Freeway Widening During Town Hall Visit To Orange County

Economic Stimulus Funds Coming to Orange County

President Barack Obama told nearly 2,000 residents at a town hall meeting in Costa Mesa Wednesday that Orange County's major stimulus project will widen the Riverside Freeway (SR-91) and create thousands of jobs that will help the region's battered economy toward a road to recovery.

Because of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) will utilize \$71.4 million of federal stimulus funds to immediately begin widening nearly seven miles of SR-91 between Orange County and Riverside County.

Shovel-Ready Projects Get Funding

In an introduction of the nation's 44th president to



an enthusiastic crowd at the Orange County Fairgrounds, Laguna Niguel resident Jerome Ruddins, a construction manager with RBF Consulting that will work on SR-91, highlighted other "shovel-ready" transportation and water infrastructure projects in Orange County. OCTA is anticipated to receive approximately \$200 million from the president's stimulus plan to widen freeways, repair roads, improve rail and make other transportation enhancements throughout Orange County.



Orange County Ready to Work

With 41,000 jobs lost last year and one of the nation's highest foreclosure rates, Orange County's economy is obviously suffering, the president said.

"But here's what I want you to know: we are not only going to make it through this crisis, we are going to come out on the other side a stronger and more prosperous nation," President Obama said. "I can't tell you how long it will take or what obstacles we will face along the way, but I can promise you this — there will be brighter days ahead."



SR-91 Project Gets Presidential Attention

The president said the state already is seeing signs of progress, highlighting the SR-91 improvement project as an example of getting Americans back to work by investing in much-needed transportation infrastructure.



Economic Stimulus Funds Create and Protect Jobs

"Orange County is hoping to add a new lane on SR-91, creating about 2,000 jobs and easing congestion in the process," President Obama said. "These are just a few of the 396,000 jobs we will create or save in California — and the 3.5 million jobs we will create or save across America — over the next two years."

OCTA Buses Provide Security for President

OCTA officials also were proud to honor the White House's request by providing a dozen OCTA buses that served as a security perimeter for the president's Marine One helicopter and four other accompanying choppers as they arrived and departed from the fairgrounds.

Review [SR-91 project](#).

Read [President Obama's speech](#).

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