



Pathways TO A BETTER 91

FALL/WINTER 2011



Upcoming Outreach

With the completion of the Eastbound Lane Addition Project, community outreach efforts shift gears to a second A Better 91 project between SR-241 and SR-55 expected to begin construction in mid 2011.

In the coming months, community outreach will be conducted for the SR-91 Westbound and Eastbound Lane Additions Project in the cities of Anaheim, Yorba Linda and Placentia at places such as:

- City Council Meetings
- Neighborhood Association Meetings
- Community Events
- Local Businesses

For more information about this project, go to www.octa.net/better91_proj2 and feel free to join our database.

To schedule OCTA for an event or presentation, contact Community Outreach Liaison Robert Chevez at (909) 886-8188 or rchevez@octa.net.



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The First Step to A Better 91 Finished; Other SR-91 Projects Rev Up

On Thursday, December 2, OCTA, Caltrans and Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC) officials welcomed Victor Mendez, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, to mark the completion of the SR-91 Eastbound Lane Addition Project, coined as the *"First Step to A Better Commute, A Better Connection"* on SR-91.

The event marked a significant milestone that provides congestion relief to commuters and commercial vehicle operators on the Riverside freeway—one of the busiest corridors in California—and the start of several additional projects to improve mobility and quality of life to the community.



Representatives from the Orange County Transportation Authority, Federal Highway Administration, Caltrans, Riverside County Transportation Commission, California State Assembly, and Orange County Board of Supervisors attended the completion event.

Nation's Top Highway Official Commends Partnership

As the nation's top highway official, Administrator Mendez commended OCTA, Caltrans and RCTC officials for partnering to maximize productivity while minimizing impacts. In his remarks, Mendez thanked construction crews for getting the job done quickly, in just more than a year, and acknowledged the public for supporting the project from concept to completion.



FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez (driver) and OCTA Chairman Jerry Amante (passenger seat) are waived on to take the ceremonial first drive on the new SR-91 eastbound lane between SR-241 and SR-71.

"The only way to accomplish big infrastructure initiatives is through strong partnerships," said Mendez. "Leaders and citizens are important to the success of major projects."

Going Green on Ceremonial First Drive

To commemorate the project's completion, transportation officials took a ceremonial first drive in Ford Hybrid vehicles, which were sponsored by the Ford Motor Company, to see the new improvements throughout the project area.

SR-91 Eastbound Lane Addition Project Improvements

- ▶ New 5.9 mile 12 foot general use lane and 12 foot shoulder
- ▶ Concrete barriers and guardrails for safety
- ▶ Five widened bridges
- ▶ Ten retaining walls
- ▶ New overhead signage and freeway lighting

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SR-91 WESTBOUND LANE ADDITION

FULLERTON
ANAHEIM
BUENA PARK



Build Alternative Selected, Project Moves Into Design and Right of Way Phase

Travelling westbound on SR-91 can be a tough commute. That is why OCTA and Caltrans are working together on the 4.5 mile SR-91 Westbound Lane Addition Project, which will improve the drive for commuters and commercial vehicle operators between SR-57 and I-5.

Project Design Underway

Following completion of an extensive environmental review process in late 2010, which resulted in the adoption of a mitigated negative declaration and selection of a preferred build alternative, OCTA and Caltrans started design on the SR-91 Westbound Lane Addition Project.

Nearly 35 percent complete, the project design calls for a new general purpose lane in the westbound direction, plus an auxiliary lane at specific intervals, within the project area. Benefits will include congestion relief, decreased travel times and shortened peak traffic periods.

Community Outreach

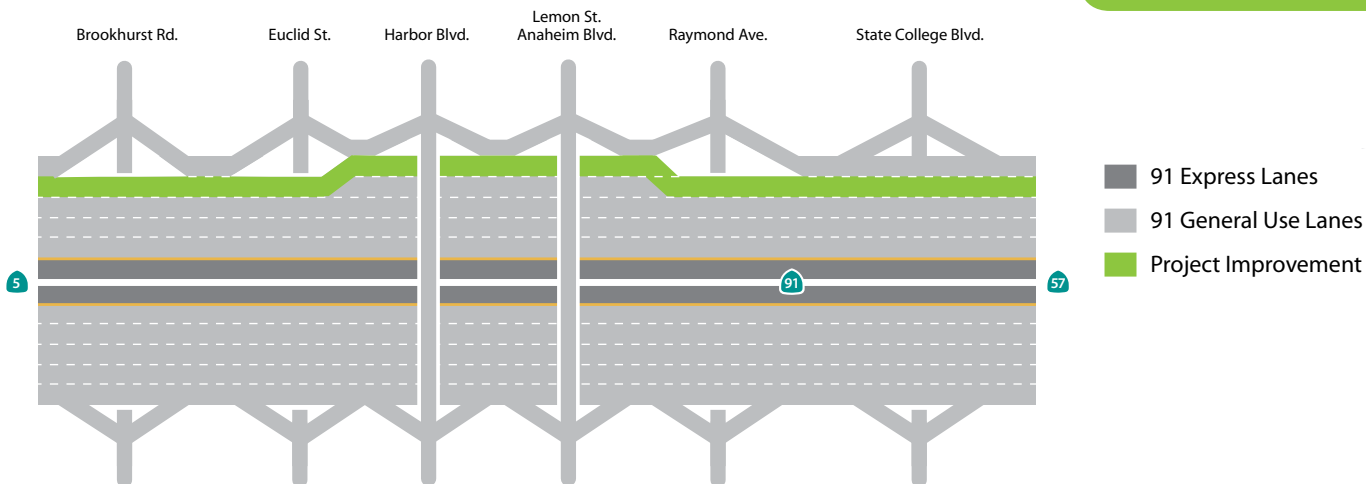
While the overwhelming majority of the project will take place on state right-of-way (ROW), the public outreach and ROW team will start the ROW process in early 2011 and begin contacting those property owners potentially impacted by the project. Once the design and ROW phases

are completed, the project will begin construction in late 2012.

As with all other freeway improvement projects, OCTA will implement a multimedia community outreach program designed to keep commuters and taxpayers aware of the projects progress, benefits and next steps.

For more information about this project, please visit www.octa.net/better91.

If you have questions about the project, please contact Fernando Chavarria, OCTA Manager of Outreach, at (714) 560-5306 or fchavarria@octa.net



Communications Tool Box

Keeping up to date on A Better 91 projects couldn't be easier. Whether your communication tool of choice is email, phone, Twitter, or a Web site, you can reach us any time:



Email
fchavarria@octa.net



Phone
(714) 560-5306



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Web site
www.octa.net/better91

SR-91 WESTBOUND & EASTBOUND LANE ADDITIONS

ANAHEIM
PLACENTIA
YORBA LINDA



Design Complete, Construction to Start in Mid 2011

With the project design completed and approved in December 2010, the SR-91 Westbound and Eastbound Lane Additions Project – the second of OCTA's three SR-91 improvement projects spanning 22 miles between SR-71 and I-5 – is nearing the start of construction.

The project will add a new fifth general purpose lane in each direction of SR-91 between SR-55 and SR-241. In late January, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) fully funded the project and green lit the project to move forward into construction.

Project Benefits

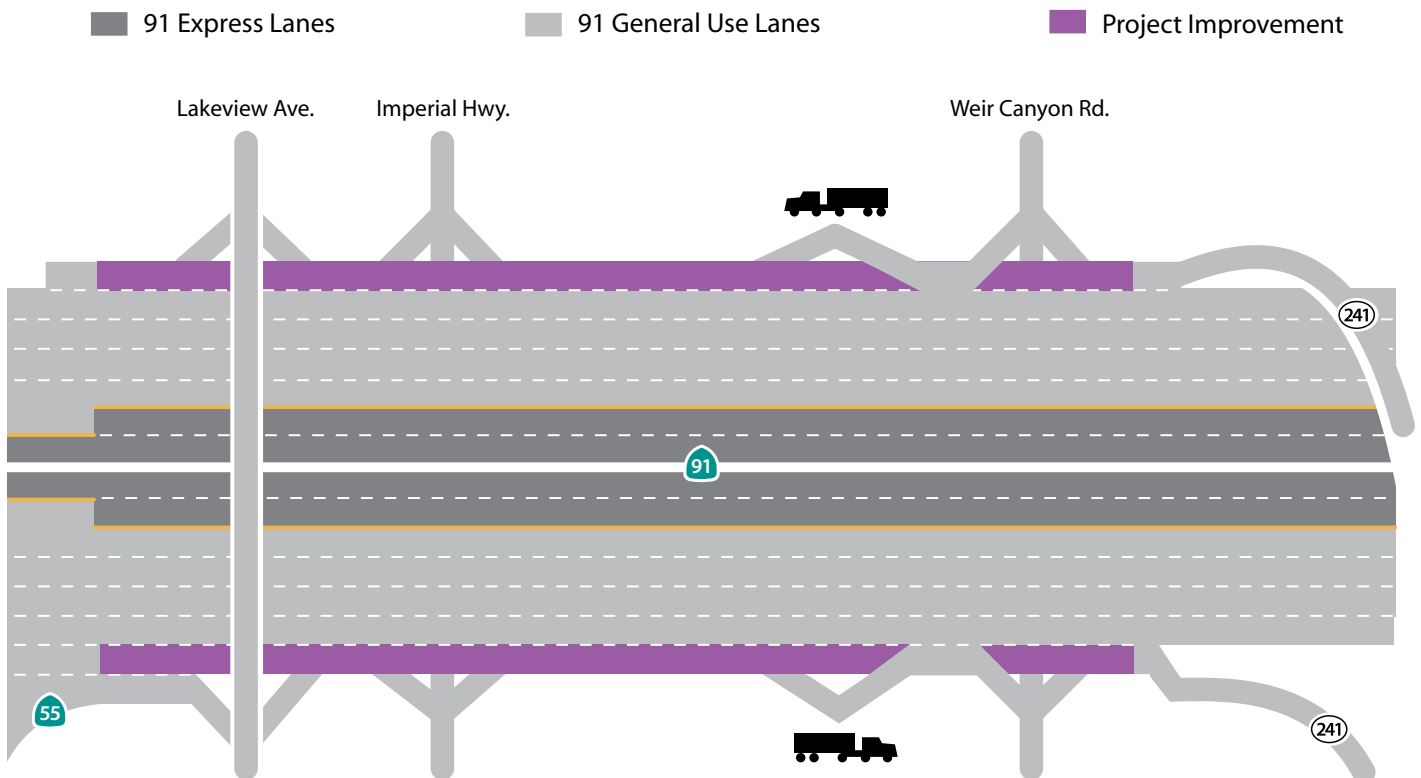
The \$98 million project, which will be completed in 2013, will increase capacity and relieve congestion throughout the 6-mile corridor. In addition to being a key commuting route, it is a critical corridor for the commercial vehicles transporting goods from the Ports of Los Angeles and

Long Beach to key markets in Orange County and distribution centers in the Inland Empire. Other project benefits include operational improvements to key on- and off-ramps within the project area and the construction of sound walls in select residential areas.

Next Steps

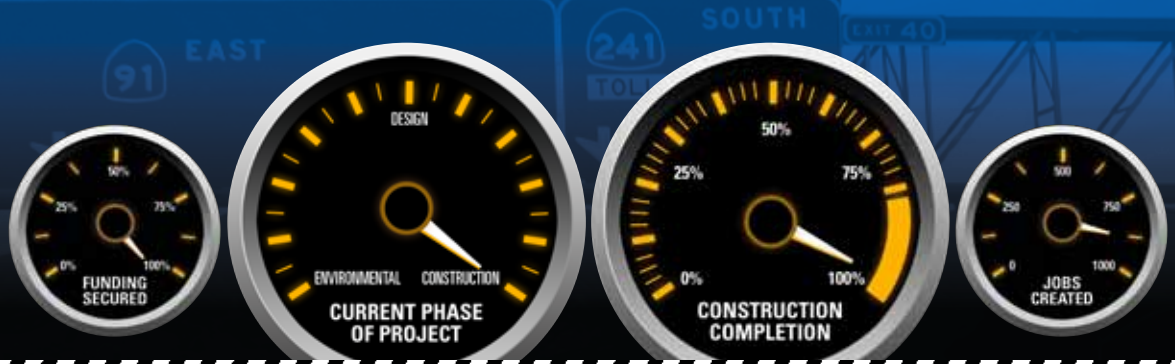
A call for construction proposals is expected to be issued in early 2011 followed by the selection of a contractor and notice to proceed start of construction by mid 2011. To learn about contracting opportunities associated with this and other highway projects, please visit www.dot.ca.gov/dist12.

To schedule a presentation on the project, or to add your name to the project database, go to www.octa.net/better91_proj2.aspx. You can also contact Fernando Chavarria of OCTA at (714) 560-5306.



SR-91 EASTBOUND LANE ADDITION

ANAHEIM
CORONA
YORBA LINDA



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Project Funding

Construction for the \$65 million project was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The project is the largest ARRA funded freeway improvement project to be finished in Orange County to date. A total of \$47.9 million in federal stimulus dollars went to fund construction, while revenue from OCTA's 91 Express Lanes and RCTC monies covered just more than \$17 million in planning and design costs.

Boosting the Local Economy

In addition to creating jobs, the SR-91 Eastbound Lane Addition Project supported the local economy with the procurement of locally sold concrete, asphalt, rebar and other essential construction materials. Will Kempton, OCTA Chief Executive Officer, noted that the federal stimulus funds that helped drive this project translated to much needed construction jobs.

Supporting Local Businesses

Anaheim

32,000 feet of fiber rolls and silt fencing

Inland Empire

2.3 million pounds of rebar

Orange and Riverside counties

58,000 cubic yards of concrete;
3,600 cubic yards of shotcrete

Orange and Riverside counties

5,700 tons of asphalt



Left to Right: FHWA Administrator Victor Mendez, RCTC Executive Director Anne Mayer, and OCTA CEO Will Kempton take a commemorative photo and prepare to take the ceremonial first drive on the new lane of the SR-91 Eastbound Lane Addition Project in a Ford Fusion Hybrid vehicle.

"This project exemplified what the stimulus funds intended do – get people back to work in an efficient and collaborative manner," said Kempton. "The partnership between Orange and Riverside counties was key to delivering a project that we are all proud of and one that will benefit the region."

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SR-91 EASTBOUND LANE ADDITION PROJECT

THE ROAD TO COMPLETION
THROUGH PICTURES



A BETTER 91 IN SIGHT

As the first step to A Better 91, the Eastbound Lane Addition Project is being followed by three other significant projects led by OCTA, Caltrans, and RCTC to improve mobility along SR-91 in Orange and Riverside counties.





Ready to Work - Improving Our Mobility, Enhancing Our Quality of Life



Throughout the year, OCTA's "Ready to Work" program has helped deliver more than \$200 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to improve and maintain mobility throughout Orange County.

About \$37 million has been steered to local street improvement projects throughout the county. More than \$97 million has gone toward freeway improvements that include a new 5.9-mile eastbound lane along a pivotal stretch of SR-91, as well as the construction of HOV direct connectors from SR-22 to I-405 to I-605. And if you or someone you know travels by van, bus or

train, you may be glad to know that more than \$75 million has been allocated to support bus and rail commuter services.

So whether you drive Orange County freeways or streets or use public transportation, chances are OCTA is a driving force or funding partner helping to make your commute safer and smoother.

For a complete listing of OCTA "Ready to Work" projects, go to www.octa.net/readytowork.