

North Segment: Construction Update #3



Stakeholders shown at Middle Segment opening event (right to left): Caltrans Director Will Kempton, Caltrans District 11 Media Relations Officer Edward Cartagena, Caltrans District 11 Director Pedro Orso-Delgado, and the Mayor of Escondido Lori Holt Pfeiler.

Great Projects are Developed by Great Teams and Partners

By Gustavo Dallarda, Corridor Director

The Interstate 15 (I-15) Express Lanes project is truly a team effort. Our partners include the local communities, transit agencies, federal, regional, and local governments, as well as contractors and consultants.

By working together we are creating the region's first high-tech freeway to meet the diverse travel needs of commuters and commerce. Once completed in 2012, the Express Lanes will span 20 miles from State Route 163 (SR-163) north to State Route 78 (SR-78).

In April, our North Segment construction and design team members relocated their construction office from Sabre Springs to Escondido. By locating team members together on-site, we are able to respond quickly to this segment's construction needs and improve communication with stakeholders. The move also frees up much needed parking at the Sabre Springs/Penasquitos Transit Station.

In March, our team and the I-15 communities celebrated the opening of the I-15 Express Lanes Middle Segment. The completion of this segment signifies the opening of Express Lanes from the City of San Diego to the City of Escondido.

Please read on to learn more about upcoming work planned for your community.

Construction Update: Interstate 15 Express Lanes Reach Escondido

Communities along I-15 between Centre City Parkway in Escondido and State Route 56 (SR-56) in San Diego have patiently endured I-15 Express Lanes construction since 2003. However, patience does not come without reward as this 3.5-mile section of Express Lanes connecting Escondido to San Diego opened to traffic in March.

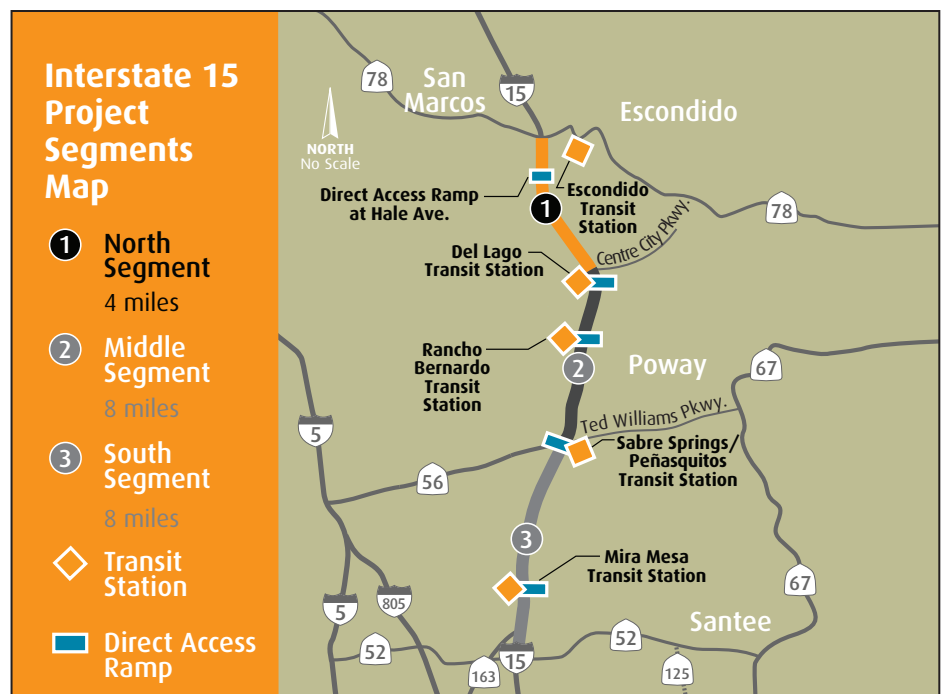
The new Express Lanes from Centre City Parkway to Rancho Bernardo Road connect to the 4.5-mile portion of Express Lanes from Rancho Bernardo Road to SR-56 that opened in September 2008. Additionally, the Del Lago and Rancho Bernardo Transit Stations opened for commuters, providing Park & Ride facilities that directly connect to the Express Lanes.

Construction of the North Segment is steadily progressing. Bridge widening remains a focus with nine bridges currently under construction. Bridge work requires periodic closures of local roads and I-15. The

Caltrans outreach team is working with the city of Escondido to keep the public informed of planned road closures and to minimize disruptions to traffic during construction. While road closures can inconvenience motorists for a brief time, completion of the I-15 Express Lanes will provide motorists with more reliable travel times and convenient transportation options.

Ron Miller, Senior Transportation Engineer for the City of Escondido, expressed the importance of the partnership with Caltrans and of the I-15 project to the city, "We appreciate the cooperative efforts extended by Caltrans personnel in addressing various construction related issues on the project. The improvements have long-term benefits for the Escondido community."

Log on to www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com, where you will find construction advisories, news releases, informational brochures and daily road closures.



Interstate 15 Express Lanes 101

The I-15 Express Lanes project provides state-of-the-art freeway features that save you time and gas. Here are a few helpful hints to facilitate your commute on the new Express Lanes.

Cost:

- ▶ The Express Lanes are free of charge to carpools, vanpools, motorcycles, permitted clean air vehicles, and public transit.
- ▶ Single occupant vehicles are permitted to access the Express Lanes by using the FasTrak tolling system. Single occupant hybrid vehicles may travel in the Express Lanes for free if they have a Clean Air Vehicle sticker

from the California Department of Motor Vehicles.

- ▶ Tolls for FasTrak users will vary from \$0.50 to \$8.00 depending on the distance traveled, the time of day and the level of traffic congestion on the Express Lanes.

Entering and Exiting:

There are two convenient ways to enter and exit the I-15 Express Lanes.

- ▶ Use the Direct Access Ramps that connect the Express Lanes to Park & Ride facilities at the Del Lago, Rancho Bernardo, and Sabre Springs Transit Stations, or;

- ▶ Use one of the Intermediate Access Points located every two to three miles along I-15.

Transit:

- ▶ Express Bus routes provide commuters with efficient transit service from the I-15 Park & Ride facilities to downtown San Diego, Sorrento Valley and University City.

More Information:

- ▶ The I-15 Express Lanes Users Guide and map are available for download at www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com, or you may call the I-15 Public Information Office at 858-668-3368 for more information.



Artist Rendition: Looking east at the Hale Avenue underpass and future Direct Access Ramp.

Hale Avenue Direct Access Ramp

Direct Access Ramps (DARs) are one of the many unique features that improve the travel experience on the I-15 Express Lanes. DARs connect to Transit Stations and Park & Ride facilities to provide priority access to the Express Lanes for carpools, vanpools, and transit.

Once completed, the I-15 Express Lanes project will have five DARs along the corridor. In the North Segment, one DAR is planned at Hale Avenue.

The Hale Avenue DAR is unique because it will provide a southbound on-ramp to the Express Lanes from below the freeway. A northbound exit is also provided. The four other DARs provide full northbound and southbound access to the Express Lanes from above the freeway.

Look for construction on the Hale Avenue DAR to start when freeway widening is completed in early 2011 with completion of the DAR expected in summer 2011.

Question of the Quarter

Who do I contact if I have a question on I-15 construction?

Our project team understands that the I-15 Express Lanes project has long-term, wide-ranging importance to dozens of neighborhoods and communities along the corridor. In order to stay in close communication with these stakeholders, Caltrans has a dedicated, full-time Public Information Office at the I-15 construction office located at 304 Enterprise Street in Escondido. Since the start of this year, the I-15 Public Information Office has received and responded to over 200 inquiries.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the project, please call us at 858-668-3368 or visit www.KeepSanDiegoMoving.com to find newsletters, construction advisories, news releases, and nightly closures posted daily.



Some of the construction and design team members of the Express Lanes project.