

Interstate 15 Express Lanes Extended Closures Three Month Closure of I-15 Express Lanes Entrance/Exit Frequently Asked Questions

Please tell me, is the worst of it over?

The good news is that, yes, the worst is over. Once the nine-day closure ends on Monday, June 27, the South Segment of I-15 will be nearly complete and boast four Express Lanes, double the current number.

So how many miles of four-lane Express Lanes will now be available?

With the opening of the South Segment, we now have 16 miles of Express Lanes completed. They run from Via Rancho Parkway in Escondido to State Route 163 (SR 163) in San Diego. We still need to finish four miles of Express Lanes in the North Segment that will link Via Rancho Parkway to State Route 78.

When will other new Express Lanes access points open?

When the facility reopens on June 27, there will be three northbound I-15 Express Lanes entrances: at SR 163, near Miramar Way, and near Miramar Road, and two southbound entrances: at SR 56 and just south of Mercy Road. This will increase the number of access points in this part of the corridor from zero to four with more to follow in the fall. We will eventually open up another northbound entrance near Mira Mesa Boulevard, and three southbound entrances at Poway Road, Mira Mesa Boulevard and Miramar Way.

Are any more closures like this planned?

Not of this magnitude. The nine-day closure was necessary to allow us to install the movable barrier and complete important paving, electric and tie-in work that could not be completed with live traffic in the lanes.

How can I learn about any other upcoming changes?

We do a lot to notify our customers of our construction progress. We post information on our Web site routinely. We regularly contact newspapers, TV and radio of any disruptions caused by the improvement project. We even use social media tools. In the future, feel free to follow us at www.twitter.com/SDCaltrans.

What happens after the nine-day closure?

Beginning Monday, June 27, an extended closure of I-15's southern entrance and exit will begin. This entrance and exit is located just south of the I-15/SR 163 merge. This is expected to be closed for approximately three months. However, the northbound Express Lanes entrance from SR 163 will be reopened by June 27.

Will I still be able to access the northbound I-15's Express Lanes from I-15 south of the interchange at SR 163?

Yes, Express Lanes users from northbound I-15 will be able to use a new entrance. Drivers will need to continue north on I-15, past the SR 163/I-15 merge, and gradually merge over to the far left lane in order to enter the Express Lanes at a new access point just south of Miramar Way. Do not worry if you miss this entrance -- there will be another northbound entrance just north of Miramar Road.

If the exit is closed to southbound I-15, where should I exit the Express Lanes?

If you are traveling south on the Express Lanes and you need to access I-15 south at the I-15/SR 163 merge, you will need to merge out of the Express Lanes a little early than usual, at a new exit near Miramar Way. If you stay in the Express Lanes, you will be forced onto southbound SR 163. Our crews will place signs notifying I-15 traffic that they need to exit early.

Will anything else be closed?

Yes, the entrance to the southbound Express Lanes near SR 56, on the right hand side of the freeway, will be closed permanently. Motorists coming from Camino Del Norte and Carmel Mountain Road will be directed to a new entrance just south of Mercy Road on the left hand side of the freeway. This will be the best entrance to use until a new entrance opens near Poway Road. Detour signs will be posted for motorists to follow.

What at the expected impacts of these closures?

The impacts from the closures of the entrance and exit ramps to and from the I-15 Express Lanes is expected to be minimal. Traffic may be heavier than usual for the first few days while motorists adjust to the new configuration.

When will the I-15 Express Lanes project be over?

The South Segment from SR 56/Ted Williams Parkway to SR 163 is expected to be completed by late 2011, almost one year ahead of schedule. The North Segment, from State Route 78 to Centre City Parkway in Escondido is scheduled to also be completed by late 2011, right on schedule.