

## Corridor Newsletter: Spring 2011

### “Spring”-ing Forward

By **Gustavo Dallarda**, Corridor Director

In March, we reset our clocks to spring ahead an hour. Like our clocks, the I-15 project is also springing forward.

The most immediate progress is the completion of two bridges this spring: one at Poway Road/Rancho Peñasquitos Boulevard and another at Carroll Canyon Road. While we are completing these bridges on time and within budget, we want to thank the Poway, Rancho Peñasquitos, Mira Mesa and Scripps Ranch communities for their patience during construction.

Our next major milestone is to open eight miles of two additional Express Lanes between State Route 163 (SR 163) and State Route 56 (SR 56) later this year. In preparation for this opening, a series of closures in the Express Lanes will begin this spring as described in the next article.

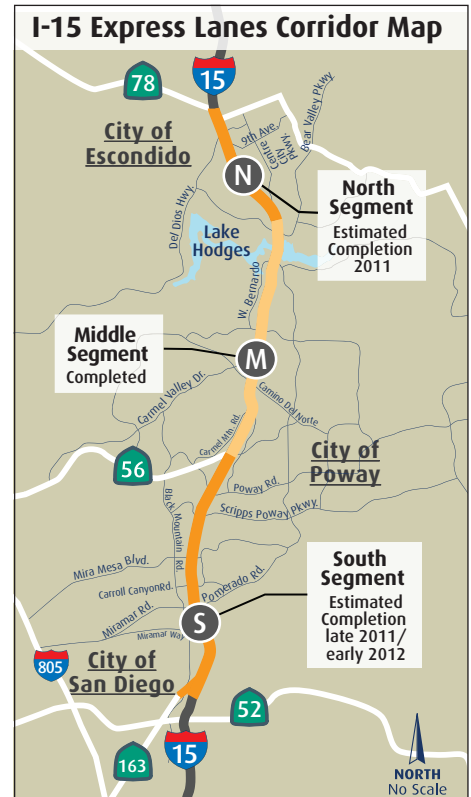
We will conduct an extensive outreach effort so that you will be well prepared.

This issue also includes highlights of the parking expansion at the Sabre Springs Transit Station, an interview with one of our engineers in charge of improvements near the SR 78/I-15 interchange, and a description of how to qualify as a carpool when traveling on the Express Lanes.

We anticipate a busy year to keep us on track to complete the I-15 Express Lanes Project by late 2011/early 2012.



*Poway Road/Rancho Peñasquitos Boulevard bridge.*



### Be Prepared: Major Closures Planned for the I-15 Express Lanes Beginning This Spring

A series of major closures will begin this spring in the I-15 Express Lanes. These closures will require your patience and preparation. The good news is that soon after we complete the closures, the South Segment of the I-15 Express Lanes Project will be close to completion.



*The usual entrance into the I-15 Express Lanes from northbound SR 163.*

We will keep you apprised of these closures, detours and expected impacts as we move through them this spring, summer and fall. In the immediate future, here’s what to expect:

The first closure in the I-15 Express Lanes is the northbound entrance to the Express Lanes from northbound SR 163 at the I-15/SR 163 interchange. This closure is expected to begin on Monday, April 11 and last approximately three months.

During this closure, motorists will be able to access the Express Lanes at a new entrance three-quarters of a mile north of this interchange. It will be important for northbound motorists to remember that they will need to be in the far left lane in order to access this

new entrance to the Express Lanes. This is different from the current situation which requires motorists to be in the far right lane to enter the Express Lanes from SR 163.

Northbound motorists should expect increased congestion in the Miramar area during the afternoon commute. Those who wish to avoid this congestion can try alternative routes and access the Express Lanes from the northbound I-15 entrance just south of the I-15/SR 163 interchange, which will remain open during this first closure.

More information, including updates, detour messages, alternative routes and detailed maps, will be posted on [keepsandiegomoving.com](http://keepsandiegomoving.com).

## Sabre Springs Transit Station: Major Parking Expansion to Begin Construction Mid-2011

Exciting news is in store for regular Commuter Express Bus patrons and carpoolers who use the Sabre Springs Transit Station. The San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) will begin construction of a four-story parking structure that will add approximately 500 additional parking spaces to the station. When complete, the entire station will be able to accommodate over 600 vehicles.

Construction is scheduled to last approximately one year, beginning in fall 2011. During construction, the Direct Access Ramps will remain open. However, the existing parking lot and bus stop at Sabre Springs will be closed. Patrons of Express Bus Route 820 are encouraged to park at the Park & Ride facility at Sabre Springs Parkway and Poway Road. For Express Bus Route 860 patrons, please park at the nearby Park & Ride facility

located at Rancho Carmel Drive and Ted Williams Parkway or at the Carmel Mountain Plaza lot immediately adjacent to Reading Cinema 12. Routes 820 and 860 will be enhanced to provide similar levels of service that are currently offered at the Sabre Springs Transit Station. Please contact the I-15 Public Information Office at 858-668-3368 with any questions.



The entrance sign to the Sabre Springs Transit Station; 500 new parking spaces will be constructed here beginning in fall 2011.

## Meet Caltrans Design Manager David Stebbins: Delivering Improvements to SR 78 Near I-15



David Stebbins near the project area.

### What is your role on the project?

I am the Caltrans Design Manager for two projects: the westbound SR 78 auxiliary lane and the Nordahl Road bridge replacement. I oversee a team of design engineers and coordinate with the cities of Escondido and San Marcos.

### What improvements are being made?

We will construct a westbound auxiliary lane on SR 78 from the northbound I-15 connector to the Nordahl Road

off-ramp. The added lane will ease a bottleneck by giving traffic from I-15 more time to merge. Also, we will replace the Nordahl Road bridge over SR 78 and add a lane on the bridge; this added lane will alleviate another bottleneck on Nordahl Road by providing more room for cars waiting to turn left onto the SR 78 on-ramps. The new bridge will be longer and taller to accommodate future freeway widening and to allow better clearance for trucks. Construction is expected to begin this summer.

### How did you work to minimize impacts for the general public?

We coordinated with the cities to plan our construction staging carefully. We did not want to fully close the bridge because this is a well-traveled area. So, we will build it one-half at a time, keeping the other half open.

This configuration will decrease the number of cars that the bridge can process at one time. For this reason, during construction we advise people to expect delays when traveling through the area.

### Where can I obtain more information?

More project information is posted on [keepsandiegomoving.com](http://keepsandiegomoving.com) under the I-15 section. You can also call our Public Information Officer at 858-668-3368 and sign up to be included on SR 78 construction email alerts.

### What do you enjoy about your job?

Designing large infrastructure projects is fun and challenging. It keeps me up to date with the region's development and transportation needs. I enjoy working with the cities and the public to build projects that serve their travel needs.



## If I want to travel on the I-15 Express Lanes as a carpool, how many people do I need in my car?

On I-15 in San Diego County, a carpool is defined as two or more people per vehicle, i.e., the driver plus at least one passenger. You do not need anything else (such as a FasTrak transponder) to travel in the I-15 Express Lanes as a carpool. However, please note that a carpool can be defined differently in other counties and cities, so please read posted signs carefully as you travel through the state.

Want to learn how to join a carpool or vanpool? Visit [icommutesd.com](http://icommutesd.com) to learn more about incentives and RideMatcher, a rideshare matching service.



You need two or more people in your car to drive free in the I-15 Express Lanes.