

Corridor Newsletter: Fall 2011

The Long Road to a Better Freeway is Almost Complete

By **Gustavo Dallarda**, Corridor Director

Hats off to everyone!

The I-15 Express Lanes project went through one of its more challenging times this summer when the South Segment Express Lanes were closed for nine days so that critical work could be done.

Thank you for your patience. I'd also like to thank Caltrans workers and our private contractors for getting the job done on time.

The result? Sixteen of the 20 miles of Express Lanes are now operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week. A number of new entrances and exits were completed too.

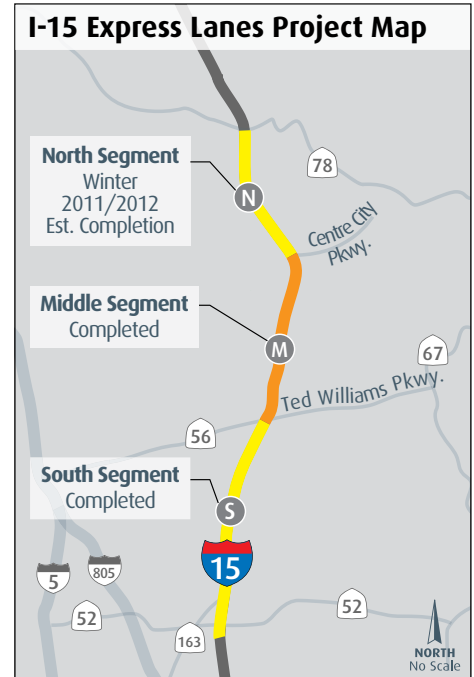
Not only are the Express Lanes expected to speed commutes, they will be the roadway for a new public transit service called the Bus Rapid Transit System. The first of its kind in San Diego, it's slated to start in 2013 and will be a high-frequency express bus service linking Escondido

to downtown San Diego. It will include key stops in between as well as provide an Escondido to Sorrento Valley branch, via Mira Mesa Boulevard.

The Express Lanes are free to carpoolers (a driver and one passenger minimum), public transit, motorcyclists and those driving vehicles with special "High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Access" clean air vehicle decals issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Single occupancy drivers can also use the Express Lanes by paying a toll, which is automatically collected through a FasTrak® device called a transponder. To get yours go to 511sd.com/FasTrak.

Even if you don't use the Express Lanes, you will benefit from them because they remove traffic from the main lanes. Once completed, the I-15 Express Lanes project will be the first section of a regional system of Express Lanes. With the project ending a year early, you will



All Express Lanes will be open soon

soon have more travel options and full use of all 20 miles of the Express Lanes by the beginning of next year.

North Segment Completes Final Leg of I-15 Express Lanes Project

This winter, motorists will be able to enjoy Express Lanes from Centre City Parkway to State Route 78 (SR-78) when the North Segment of the I-15 Express Lanes Project is completed. The North Segment opens up the last stretch of I-15 Express Lanes and marks the completion of the entire project.

The North Segment started in November 2008. When completed, it will have two Intermediate Access Points (IAPs) near Felicita Avenue (one going northbound and one southbound) and one Direct Access Ramp (DAR) at Hale Avenue. The IAPs allow motorists to move in and out of the Express Lanes to access their communities. The Hale DAR, meanwhile,

makes it easy for Express Lane users to access the Express Lanes directly from Hale Avenue without merging from the main lanes.



The I-15 North Segment is expected to be completed this winter.

Motorists will see a difference between the North Segment and the rest of the Express Lanes. The Express Lanes in the North Segment are separated by a fixed median, not a movable barrier. This option was chosen because traffic demand north of Via Rancho Parkway can be met with two Express Lanes, so the need for movable barrier, which can be used to increase the number of Express lanes in one direction to three lanes, wasn't warranted.

The North Segment will finish on time and on budget. That's quite a feat, considering that 49,178 cubic yards of concrete was poured and formed. That's enough to fill 15 Olympic-sized pools.

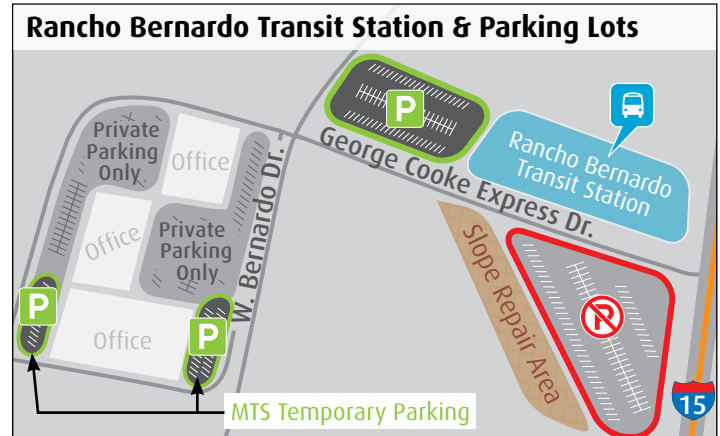
Rancho Bernardo Transit Station South Lot Closed

The south parking lot at the Rancho Bernardo Transit Station will not be available to commuters as workers repair the slope above it. The work, which began in early October, is expected to take two to three months.

See the map at right for where parking is allowed during the construction. The station's north lot will remain open.

Additional temporary lot parking is available, with spaces in front and back of LBA/West Bernardo Business Park, 16680-16690 West Bernardo Drive. Please park only in MTS designated spaces in these temporary lots. Also, please don't disturb the commercial tenants of this business park.

As space is limited, commuters might consider using the Sabre Springs/Rancho Peñasquitos Park & Ride or other such lots along the corridor. They can be found at iCommuteSD.com.



Lots outlined in green are where parking is permitted.

Meet Gerard Chadergian: The Award-Winning I-15 Freeway Project? He Helped Design It.



Gerard Chadergian, I-15 Corridor Design Manager

What are the biggest improvements to the Express Lanes?

There are many improvements. The old Reversible HOV Lanes only ran from SR 163 to SR 56 and had no exits or entrances other than where the lanes started and ended. Only two lanes were available for use and they were closed at night. Once this project is completed, there will be 20 miles of Express Lanes,

with many entrances and exits to access local communities and four lanes that run 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There will also be the ability to shift the movable barrier and create three Express Lanes during peak commute times if necessary in 16 of the 20 miles.

How are the Express Lanes improving the San Diego transportation network?

When you give motorists more choices and improve existing public transportation, motorists can choose alternative ways to travel, other than hopping in their cars. And that means fewer cars will end up on the freeway and less congestion on the main lanes.

How do people know where to enter and exit the Express Lanes?

Visit our project pages at KeepSanDiegoMoving.com and view the lane

configuration maps on the Express Lanes page that describe the Express Lanes entrances and exits. Once you're in the Express Lanes, there are signs that let you know where to exit for certain highway exits. Also, electronic signs along the corridor can help guide motorists during emergencies, special events and detours.

Do you use the Express Lanes?

I do, especially with my family, since I live along the I-15 and, naturally, use it often.

What's your favorite part of your job?

I got into the field because I'm a hands-on person. I like going out to a site and seeing something that I helped design.



What's this talk about getting a Free \$10 Gas Card?

It's not just talk. If you open a FasTrak account, that's what you receive. FasTrak, for a fee, gives single occupancy drivers access to the new Interstate I-15 Express Lanes. Hurry, because the offer expires November 20. Sixteen of the 20 miles are now complete, so it's a great investment if you plan to drive by yourself in the Express Lanes. Go to 511sd.com/FasTrak for more information.

