

HOW CAN YOU BE PART OF THIS PROCESS?

Public participation is an important component of the environmental clearance process. To learn more or to comment on the proposed improvements, please:

- Attend a public meeting
- Ask to be placed on the project mailing list
- Please visit the project website — coming soon — at http://www.rctc.org/projects/highway_215.asp
- Please visit the website of project partner Caltrans: www.caltrans8.info
- Call RCTC at (951) 787-7141
- Write to the Riverside County Transportation Commission, P.O. Box 12008, Riverside, CA 92502-2208



I-215 looking south from Perris



I-215 near Menifee



Q&A

A project of the Riverside County Transportation Commission

**INTERSTATE 215
WIDENING
PROJECT**



WHAT IS THE I-215 WIDENING PROJECT?

The Riverside County Transportation Commission proposes to widen Interstate 215 from the junction of I-15/I-215 in Temecula to State Route 60 in Riverside. The widening will cover 29.25 miles and is designed to relieve traffic congestion, improve freeway operations and contribute to the area's economic vitality.

Because of the length of the facility that will be improved and the differing environmental challenges that will have to be addressed for each segment, the I-215 improvements between I-15 and State Route 60 will be divided into three separate projects. The southern project will extend from I-15 to Scott Road north of Murrieta; the central project will extend from Scott Road to Nuevo Road in Perris; the northern project will extend from Nuevo Road to Route 60. RCTC is proposing to add a general purpose lane and inside shoulder in both directions to the southern and central segments, while a carpool lane is proposed to be added in both directions to the northern segment. Carpool lane connectors also are proposed from these lanes to westbound I-215/Route 60.

westbound I-215/Route 60.

RCTC has begun the project report and environmental document phases for the southern and central segments. This work is expected to begin for the northern segment in early 2008. This phase includes a series of studies and public meetings that will help determine how the goals of each project can be met while minimizing the impacts on the surrounding area. The goal is to obtain environmental approvals to allow the projects to move forward to construction.

While each of these projects is on a different delivery schedule, the southern and central segments will be given highest priority for project development, since I-215 narrows to only two lanes in each direction south of D Street in Perris. Widening these segments will expand the freeway to three lanes in each direction.

An aggressive schedule has been set using funds from Measure A, Proposition 1B and other state and federal sources to allow rapid delivery of these projects. These projects are part of a comprehensive delivery plan that will invest \$2 billion in voter-approved Measure A revenue on four Riverside County freeway corridors during the next 10 years. Measure A is the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements across the county. Work on the I-215 corridor between I-15 and Route 60 is estimated to cost \$417 million. Proposition 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account funds totaling \$38.6 million will pay for a portion of the southern segment of the project.



I-215 in Murrieta

WHO ARE THE PROJECT PARTNERS?

The Riverside County Transportation Commission is working in partnership with:

- California Department of Transportation
- Federal Highway Administration
- County of Riverside
- City of Temecula
- City of Murrieta
- City of Perris
- City of Moreno Valley
- City of Riverside



I-215 near Sun City, looking north from McCall Road

I-215 WIDENING PROJECT

Riverside County Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 12008
Riverside, CA 92502-2208



RCTC

Riverside County Transportation Commission

www.rctc.org

November 2007



A project of the Riverside County Transportation Commission

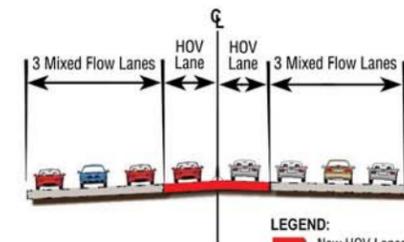
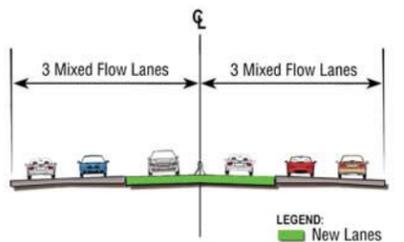
INTERSTATE 215 WIDENING PROJECT

HOW WILL THIS PROJECT BENEFIT THE I-215 CORRIDOR?

Traffic congestion continues to grow along I-215, especially during peak morning and afternoon commute hours. Although this project unfortunately will not relieve all of the future traffic congestion that is expected to occur, widening the freeway will help reduce traffic delays, gasoline consumption and pollutants.

The three projects all are designated as median widening projects, with the new lanes being added in the unused portion of the center median. RCTC can use the existing freeway right of way located within the median to widen the facility for most of the project. This design will reduce the impact to homes and businesses located adjacent to the freeway in the area of the proposed improvements.

Noise studies will be performed to analyze the impacts of the project near all sensitive receptors. Where appropriate, walls will be considered to mitigate noise impacts resulting from the project improvements. If walls are proposed, the owners of the properties adjacent to the wall will be given an opportunity to vote on whether the wall is constructed.



	SAVINGS		
Vehicle Delays Saved Per Day	3,200 Hours	4,600 Hours	6,900 Hours
Gasoline Saved Per Day	1,400 Gallons	2,000 Gallons	3,000 Gallons
Pollutants Saved Per Year	3 Tons	10 Tons	36 Tons
South I-215 Project I-15 to Scott Road	Central I-215 Project Scott Road to Nuevo Road	North I-215 Project Nuevo Road to Route 60	

Source: PB Americas; RCTC 10-Year Measure A Delivery Plan

WHAT WILL BE STUDIED FOR THIS PROJECT?

The preliminary engineering and environmental document phase includes a number of studies that will help planners understand the full impact of the proposed I-215 project. These include studies of:

- Current and future traffic conditions
- Conditions of existing roadways and structures
- Freeway onsite drainage and the accommodation of offsite drainage that must cross I-215
- Compliance with Riverside County's Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan
- Hydraulics/hydrology and flood plains studies
- Water quality studies
- Impacts to residents and businesses
- Visual impacts
- Noise modeling
- Air quality
- Relocation needs
- Plants and wildlife
- Historic properties
- Cost estimates

Using the information gathered from these studies, planners will prepare and circulate draft project reports and environmental documents for review by state and federal agencies. Several public meetings will be held to allow motorists, residents, business operators and other stakeholders to provide comments about the proposed project. Planners will include information gathered from agency and public review and develop final environmental documents to comply with standards set by the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act as appropriate.



I-215 in Murrieta, looking south from Clinton Keith Road

WHAT IS THE PROJECT SCHEDULE?

Transportation projects have many phases that are required by law before construction can begin. A Project Study Report was completed in December 2006 that covered the segment from I-15 to Nuevo Road. A separate PSR covering the segment from Nuevo Road to State Route 60 is scheduled to be completed in December of 2007.

The preparation of the Project Report and Environmental documents is expected to last until late 2008 for the I-15 to Scott Road project, until late 2009 for the Scott Road to Nuevo Road project and until early 2010 for the Nuevo Road to Route 60 project. After that, final engineering design and right of way acquisition can begin. Construction is scheduled to start as early as 2010 in the southern segment.

