



District

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CALTRANS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Approach to Fix50 W/X Viaduct Rehabilitation to Begin April 22
Caltrans to rebuild top deck on US Highway 50 between I-5 and Hwy 99

SACRAMENTO – Caltrans and local community partners announced today an updated approach and schedule for the Fix50 W/X Viaduct in Sacramento that will reduce traffic congestion. Rather than closing one side of the highway at a time to do the work, 2 to 3 lanes on the construction side will stay open at all times, and all lanes in the opposite direction of the construction will stay open as well. This new plan increases the total number of open lanes during construction on Highway 50 from 5 up to 8 available lanes. The new approach will also mean fewer days of closure for on- and off-ramps, as well as connectors with Highway 99 and Interstate 5.

In order to implement this approach, the project will begin on April 22-two weeks earlier than originally planned-in order to still reopen all lanes for Memorial Day Weekend.

“We listened to hundreds of local community groups, public officials and law enforcement and incorporated the community’s best recommendations into this new plan for the Fix50 project,” said Caltrans District 3 Director Jody Jones.

“The City agrees with this new approach,” stated Jerry Way, Director of Public Works for the City of Sacramento. “Of course, there will still be significant traffic that will spill over onto City streets and we urge everyone to make a plan in advance, but the overall traffic congestion and economic impact will be less. We are working closely with Caltrans and taking every step we can to keep traffic flowing.”

Throughout the project, California Highway Patrol (CHP) officers will be on scene to enhance safety for motorists and highway workers. CHP presence also allows for a quick response to incidents leading up to and within the construction zones, which will result in improved traffic flow.





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“Drivers should still expect significant congestion on Highway 50 near downtown, but this new plan keeps more lanes open to traffic and law enforcement throughout the region,” said Captain Mike Dust, commander of CHP’s South Sacramento Area. “Drivers are reminded to eliminate distractions, be aware of their new surroundings and allow extra time to reach their destination safely.”

Project Schedule: The eastbound stage will be resurfaced in two phases, with half of the eastbound lanes closed at a time for construction. The westbound stage will then follow the same pattern with half of the westbound lanes closed in each of two phases:

Eastbound U.S. Highway 50:

Phase 1: April 22 thru May 6

Phase 2: May 7 thru May 21

Westbound U.S. Highway 50:

Phase 1: May 27 thru June 10

Phase 2: June 11 thru June 25

Even with more lanes open, major congestion is still expected to heavily impact other area highways and surface streets. Motorists are encouraged to use alternate transportation whenever possible to help reduce congestion:

- Carpool or take alternate modes of transportation such as walking, biking, bus, or Light Rail
- Adjust work schedules to avoid rush hour or telecommute, when feasible
- Patronize local businesses after work to avoid rush hour and reduce car trips.

About the Project: The W/X Viaduct is the elevated section of U.S. Highway 50 in Sacramento south of downtown, between 18th and 24th Streets. Although there are no safety problems with the Viaduct currently, age and heavy use have caused extensive wear and cracking. The construction contractor, Myers & Sons Construction of Sacramento, will seal cracks and install a new 4-inch concrete deck on top of the existing deck and tie it to the girders. “The project will also enhance future safety and traffic operations by widening shoulders and installing new joint seals, new concrete barriers and railings, energy-efficient lighting standards, and steel column casings for seismic strengthening,” stated Jones.

Public Outreach: Caltrans’ website for the W/X Viaduct project: Fix50.com, gives the public up-to-date schedules, maps, and details about other forms of transportation. They can also sign up for project updates by email, text and social media. Caltrans has also been working for the past several months with local employers, homeowner groups and other community partners to educate the Sacramento community about the project and the significant traffic impacts it will have.

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Caltrans has four information presentations scheduled for residents and local workers:

Wednesday, April 2, 5:30-6:30 PM, Sacramento Downtown Library

Tuesday, April 8, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM, State Lottery Building

Wednesday, April 9, 9:00 – 10:00 AM, Secretary of State Auditorium

Wednesday, April 9, 2:00 – 3:00 PM, Secretary of State Auditorium

Addresses for these locations can be found on Fix50.com.

Residents are encouraged to reduce trips by dining and shopping locally. Special offers are available for local businesses at www.Fix50.com/open-for-business. Downtown businesses wishing to participate in the Fix50 offers can sign up at the same site to get free visibility during construction by submitting an offer/discount. *Open For Business* offers will be promoted on Fix50.com and on Fix 50 social media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Fix50WX>

Twitter: @Fix_50

Instagram: @Fix_50

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