



District

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CALTRANS NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fix50 westbound lane closures to begin May 27

Major traffic congestion is expected as Phase 1 on westbound Highway 50 begins

SACRAMENTO – The Fix50 project will begin the second half of major traffic-interfering work starting May 27, rehabilitating the westbound lanes of the W-X Viaduct on U.S. Highway 50. Eastbound work was completed May 16, 5 days ahead of schedule, and will remain fully open.

The first phase of the westbound stage will close the 3 inside lanes of the W-X Viaduct between 18th and 24th Streets in Sacramento, as well as one lane of the northbound Highway 99 connector to westbound Highway 50. The process of shifting and closing lanes will begin at 9 PM Monday night, May 26 and be fully configured for westbound Phase 1 work by early morning, Tuesday, May 27. Phase 1 is scheduled to run until June 10, and will be followed by westbound Phase 2 which is scheduled to be completed by June 25.

“Traffic delays are expected to be longer with the westbound work than they were with the eastbound side due to additional ramp closures and the larger volume of commuters from El Dorado and eastern Sacramento Counties, stated Caltrans District 3 Director, Jody Jones. “Caltrans urges the public to plan alternate routes well in advance, avoid any unnecessary trips, or take light rail, RT, or bike commute if you are able. Alternate routes used for the eastbound phase may not be the best routes for westbound. Information about alternate routes, detours and other transportation options is available at Fix50.com.”

Speed limits in the work zone will be reduced to 55 MPH for increased safety. Also, ramp meters will be in operation from 5 – 10 AM and 2 – 7 PM and wait times may be longer to help control traffic entering the work zone area. Drivers are reminded to remain alert for sudden traffic slowing, stopping and lane changes, and urged to avoid any distractions in the work zone like phone calls or using other mobile devices. “If you must drive through the Fix50 project area, please just be patient and pay attention to the traffic around you,” warned Director Jones. “Most work zone fatalities are caused by rear-end collisions. No phone call or other distraction is worth risking your safety.”

Project Schedule for Westbound Work:

Westbound work will run from May 27 through June 25 and will occur in two phases:

- **Phase 1: May 27 – June 10**
 - The 3 inside lanes will be closed. 2 – 3 outside lanes will remain open.
 - No ramps will be closed during the first westbound phase. However, the connector ramp from Hwy 99 North to US-50 West will merge down to one lane to increase safety for travelers merging onto US-50 West into the construction area.

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- **Phase 2: June 11-25**

- 2-3 outside lanes will be closed. Inside 3 lanes will remain open.
- Ramp closures:
 - Connector ramp from westbound Business 80 (Capitol City Freeway) to US-50 West. Hornet Drive near Sacramento State is the alternate route.
 - Reduced lanes on connector ramp from Hwy 99 North to US-50 West (will merge down to one lane).
 - 16th Street off-ramp.

Major congestion is expected throughout the region during westbound work, including on other area highways and surface streets. Motorists are encouraged to use alternate transportation whenever possible to help reduce congestion. The best way to bypass congestion is to take light rail and avoid any unnecessary trips. Other options that can help reduce congestion and wait times include:

- Take the bus: Sacramento RT, Yolobus, Elk Grove e-tran, Galt-Sacramento Commuter Express, North Natomas Flyer, Placer County Transit, Yuba Sutter Transit, or El Dorado Transit
- Capitol Corridor train service from Yolo County and Placer County. Discounts are available from Yolo Transit on the Capitol Corridor trains between Davis and Sacramento during peak hours at yolobus.com.
- Carpool / Vanpool
- Adjust work schedules to avoid rush hour or telecommute
- If possible, walk or ride a bike. May is Bike Month. See www.mayisbikemonth.com
- Patronize local businesses after work to avoid rush hour and reduce car trips. Special offers are available for local businesses at www.Fix50.com/open-for-business.

Caltrans' website for the W-X Viaduct project: **Fix50.com**, gives the public up-to-date schedules, maps, and details about alternate routes and transportation.

Get Project Updates: Motorists can sign up to receive project updates via text alerts, email or social media; and can link to local transit agencies at Fix50.com.

- **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/Fix50WX>
- **Twitter:** [@Fix_50](https://twitter.com/Fix_50)
- **Instagram:** [@Fix_50](https://www.instagram.com/Fix_50)
- **Text Alerts:** Text "Fix50" to 20673

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, is sealing cracks and installing a new 4-inch concrete deck on top of the existing deck, and tying it to the girders to give the Viaduct another 20 years of useful life.

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