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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans makes progress on Fix50 project *Credits revised plan and motorists for success*

Sacramento -- Caltrans announced today that it is making excellent progress on the Fix50 project and credits its revised construction plan that expanded transit service and increased the number of lanes open to the public.

“We listened to our local community partners and took the steps necessary to minimize traffic congestion,” said District 3 Director Jody Jones. “Our new approach took two weeks longer, but we believe the improved highway conditions and extra lanes of traffic benefitted the public and are well worth the investment.”

The original construction plan called for full closure of one side of Highway 50 at a time for three weeks each, with traffic for both directions sharing the opposite side of the highway. Caltrans and its contractor revised the construction plan to allow for two to three lanes on the construction side and all lanes in the opposite direction to remain open at all times. This reduced the traffic impacts to motorists, emergency responders and local businesses and increased the total number of open lanes during construction. In addition, Caltrans has provided funding to our local partners to relieve congestion further.

“The additional assistance funds are helping us to add supplemental bus and light rail service to increase capacity and lessen the impact of Fix 50,” said Mike Wiley, General Manager/CEO of the Sacramento Regional Transit District.

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Similarly, Sacramento Police Department Chief, Sam Somers, said, “The additional local assistance funds are helping lessen traffic impacts around the Fix 50 project by allowing us to add officers on affected surface streets.”

Here are additional details about the local assistance being provided under the improved project plan:

AGENCIES	BUDGETED FUNDS	BENEFITS
City of Sacramento	\$1.3 million	Traffic monitoring and control, addition and monitoring of fixed cameras, traffic signal retiming, local public outreach, contingency, and post-construction repair of damaged pavement Sacramento Police Department support for monitoring, traffic control, addressing project issues, and facilitating a public safety response Sacramento Fire Department support for facilitating public safety response
City of West Sacramento	\$750,000	Additional equipment/service and traffic/operations personnel from Police, Fire, and Public Works departments Changeable message signs, additional traffic cameras, traffic diversion equipment and signage, contingency
Sacramento Transit Authority	\$425,000	Assisting stranded motorists to reduce congestion
Sacramento Regional Transit District	\$447,000	Additional trains, busses, security, officers, road supervision, extended hours, contingency, and shuttle to Rivercats games
Yolo County Trans. District	\$171,000	Enhanced bus service and paratransit service
El Dorado Transit	\$45,000	Enhanced bus service
Elk Grove Transit e-tran	\$40,000	Enhanced bus service
Paratransit, Inc.	\$30,000	Enhanced paratransit service
North Natomas TMA	\$12,000	Enhanced bus service
Sacramento Area Council of Governments	\$10,000	Overseeing Master Agreement that reimburses funds to all six transit agencies
GRAND TOTAL	\$3,230,000	

In addition to the improved construction plan, Jones credits the motorists who adjusted their commute schedules and are taking advantage of transit alternatives for the reduced congestion. “Without the public’s cooperation, we would see much more congestion on the highway and city streets.”

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Caltrans completed the first phase of construction five days sooner and, along with its contractor, has made exceptional progress on the project.

Progress over the last 24 hours:

- Completed deck reinforcement steel, bulkhead installation, deck cleaning, drill hole cleaning, and drain installation
- Completed first cement pour (total of 460 cubic yards)
- Stripped the bulkhead from the first pour
- Sand blasted the joint in preparation for the 2nd deck pour

Over the next 24 hours, crews will:

- Begin 2nd deck pour for outside shoulder and bridge widening
- Continue dowel bar and rebar installation

In the coming week:

- Complete dowel bars and rebar installation
- Complete cement pour for remaining lanes and shoulder
- Begin curing process
- Sign installation

The cost for increased construction to keep more traffic lanes open was \$3.2 million, and Caltrans provided \$1.8 million to local agencies for traffic management and bus and light rail service. This revised the total project budget to \$40.5 million, which is still 12 percent less than the \$46 million listed during the project planning phase.

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)

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:





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- Take the bus: Sacramento RT, Yolobus, Elk Grove e-tran, 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.

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