



Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority

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ALAMEDA CORRIDOR ANNOUNCES DETOUR FOR PACIFIC COAST HIGHWAY CONGESTION-RELIEF PROJECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 30, 2003

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY – A detour around a heavily traveled stretch of Pacific Coast Highway in Wilmington is scheduled to begin Monday, June 2, to accommodate construction of a bridge that will significantly reduce traffic congestion, the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) announced today.

Pacific Coast Highway (PCH) between the Terminal Island Freeway and Coil Avenue is scheduled to be closed between Monday, June 2, and next April. Traffic will be routed around the construction zone utilizing Terminal Island Freeway, Sepulveda Boulevard, Alameda Street, Colon Street and Coil Avenue. Access to all businesses in the construction zone is expected to be maintained at all times. The construction contractor, Yeager Skanska, Inc., of Riverside, Calif., is required to open the bridge to at least two lanes of traffic in each direction by April 2004. Full project completion is expected by Summer 2004.

The PCH Grade Separation, a joint ACTA and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) project, calls for a half-mile-long bridge to carry PCH traffic over the Alameda Corridor freight rail expressway, a branch rail line and Alameda Street. The bridge will widen PCH from two lanes to three lanes in each direction and eliminate conflicts between street traffic and train traffic, thereby significantly reducing congestion in the area. Additional benefits include reducing emissions from idling and slow-moving trucks and enhancing public safety by improving access for emergency vehicles such as ambulances, fire trucks and police vehicles.

"Once completed, the PCH Grade Separation will help to ease the traffic congestion that has plagued the streets of Wilmington for years," said Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn, chairwoman of the ACTA Governing Board, whose district includes the project area. "ACTA has been working closely with the community, especially the Neighborhood Council, to find the best detour route and to minimize the impact of construction on residents. Now we are asking for the patience and understanding of the community while the project is completed."

ACTA is managing design and construction of the project under a unique agreement with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The \$107 million project is funded by Caltrans (\$79 million), ACTA (\$14 million) and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (\$14 million).

(MORE)



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Pacific Coast Highway Grade Separation

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ACTA, which opened the \$2.4 billion Alameda Corridor freight rail expressway on time and on budget in April 2002, became involved with the PCH Grade Separation project at the urging of elected officials when it became clear that the project would not be under construction before the Alameda Corridor opened. It is in the only location along the 20-mile route of the Alameda Corridor where street traffic and rail traffic still conflict.

The Alameda Corridor is a 20-mile freight rail expressway linking the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to the transcontinental rail yards near downtown Los Angeles. The ports are the two busiest in the nation, handling more than \$200 billion in cargo annually and generating billions of dollars in related economic benefits and jobs. The volume of cargo containers moving through the ports is expected to double in the next 10 years, making it critical to improve the ground transportation system. ACTA is a joint powers authority governed by the cities and ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

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