



Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority

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ACTA'S PCH GRADE SEPARATION PROJECT TO OPEN IN SPRING 2004

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIF. – Construction of a half-mile bridge that will extend Pacific Coast Highway over the Alameda Corridor is on schedule to open in spring 2004, the Alameda Transportation Authority (ACTA) announced Wednesday.

Barring heavy rainfall, ACTA's \$107-million PCH Grade Separation project will open to vehicle traffic in March or early April. Minor additional work, including railroad track improvements, landscaping and other details will be completed in summer 2004.

The bridge will span the area from west of the Terminal Island Freeway to Coil Avenue in Wilmington, widening PCH from four to six lanes while eliminating the last-remaining public at-grade conflict between street and train traffic on the 20-mile corridor.

"We're almost there. The Wilmington community has long sought relief from gridlock and air pollution caused by idling cars and diesel trucks," said ACTA Governing Board Vice Chair Janice Hahn, a Los Angeles City Council member. "Adding this overpass and reducing congestion will greatly improve the quality of life of the people living in Wilmington."

The authority is managing design and construction of the project under an agreement with the California Department of Transportation. Of the \$107 million budget, Caltrans is funding \$79 million, while ACTA and the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority each are contributing \$14 million.

"ACTA has done it again," said ACTA Chair Frank Colonna, the Vice Mayor of Long Beach. "The Joint-Powers Authority has a proven track record of building projects on time and on budget. If the rains do not slow us down, it looks like we'll have another successful transportation project completed."

To accommodate construction, PCH has been closed between the Terminal Island Freeway and Coil Avenue since June 1, 2003. Traffic is being routed around the construction zone utilizing the Terminal Island Freeway, Sepulveda Boulevard, Alameda Street, Colon Street and Coil Avenue. Construction contractor Yeager Skanska Inc. of Riverside has continually maintained access to all businesses in the construction zone.

Opened in April 2002, the Alameda Corridor consolidated train traffic from four branch rail lines into a high-speed freight rail expressway stretching 20 miles between the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and the transcontinental rail yards near downtown Los Angeles. The agency's governing board is made up of representatives from the cities and ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the L.A. County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).

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