



NEWS RELEASE

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District 7: Los Angeles & Ventura Counties
Contact: Patrick Chandler
Phone: 213-897-3630

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bridge Repair Begins on Pomona Freeway (SR-60) Paramount Blvd.

Montebello — The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) today announced that construction crews will begin to rebuild the Paramount Blvd. bridge that was demolished after it was severely damaged by a fuel tanker truck fire last December 14, 2011. Construction is scheduled to finish summer 2012.

“The effort to reconnect the community of Montebello is on a fast track,” said Caltrans Acting Director Malcolm Dougherty. “Caltrans has been able to expedite the environmental review and the design phase to begin building a replacement bridge in the shortest possible time.”

The original bridge was built in 1967. The replacement will be built to the most current state and federal standards. The proposed new bridge will be:

- 128 feet wide, 32 feet wider than the old bridge of 96 feet.
- One additional northbound lane (east side) and have standard shoulder widths of 8 feet (currently, there are no shoulders on the bridge).
- 14-foot center median (current median is 12 feet), and 6-foot sidewalks (current sidewalks are 5 feet).

“Due to the quick coordination between Governor Jerry Brown, U.S. Representatives Grace Napolitano, Linda Sanchez, and Judy Chu and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood, emergency federal funds were released to help start the reconstruction of the bridge,” said Dougherty.

The \$40 million project is funded by the Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program to cover the initial clean-up, demolition and construction costs.

“We will continue partner with Montebello and surrounding communities as we work to restore access for emergency, commercial and commuter services in Montebello and nearby communities,” said Caltrans District 7 Director Michael Miles.

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SR-60 was closed on Wednesday, December 14 at noon when a fuel tanker truck caught fire under the Paramount Blvd. Bridge in Montebello requiring the closure of SR-60 from the Long Beach Freeway (I-710) to the San Gabriel River Freeway (I-605). Inside of the closure crews demolished fire charred sections of the bridge and repaired damaged sections of the eastbound SR-60 below the bridge. Both sides of the freeway were opened on Saturday, December 17.

Caltrans is cognizant of the impacts this closure is having on the local communities and is doing everything possible to shorten their inconvenience. During construction it is expected that noise and vibrations will not exceed federal accepted levels.

The latest freeway traffic information can be obtained on the Caltrans website: www.dot.ca.gov by accessing the Quickmaps feature.

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