



## PRESS RELEASE

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**Contact:** John Standiford, Deputy Executive Director  
(951) 453-8249 – Mobile  
Eliza Echevarria, Public Affairs Manager  
(951) 235-9564 – Mobile

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

### **New Lanes Open on Interstate 215 Central Project in Perris**

The Riverside County Transportation Commission announced today the opening of new lanes on Interstate 215 in Perris, a milestone for the freeway widening project that began in January 2013.

Extending 5.75 miles between Ethanac Road and Nuevo Road, the new northbound lane opened today at 4 a.m., and the new southbound lane opened Sunday at 6:40 am. Last November, the first 6.75 miles of the 12.5 mile project opened on northbound and southbound I-215 from Scott Road in Menifee to Ethanac Road.

The new 5.75 mile section that opened this week marks substantial completion of the Interstate 215 Central Project. Construction work will continue to repave the other freeway lanes, install landscaping and erosion control measures, and mount aesthetic treatments featuring sky divers, planes, trains and boats on structures and walls.

The new lanes are expected to reduce traffic congestion and delays, improve emergency response times and enhance air quality through this heavily traveled corridor. The \$123.5 million construction project is funded by a combination of state funds and revenue from Measure A, the half-cent sales tax for transportation improvements in Riverside County.

The I-215 Central Project is the third in a series of projects that RCTC begin more than five years ago, including the State Route 74/Interstate 215 Interchange Project, which was completed in February 2012, and the Interstate 215 South Project, which added a new lane in both directions from Scott Road in Menifee to Murrieta Hot Springs Road in Murrieta and was

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completed in September 2012. With the newly opened lanes in Perris, motorists will be able to drive on three continuous lanes in both directions from Interstate 15 to State Route 60.

RCTC will mark the occasion with a grand opening event on October 30 at 11:30 am at 251 N. Perris Boulevard, Perris. Members of the public are welcome.

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