



Perris Press Release

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Exits to Close Briefly at I-215 and the Ramona Expressway

Construction on the new interchange at Interstate 215 and Ramona Expressway in Perris is reaching a critical point, and the exit will be closed for brief periods while wooden forms supporting portions of the widened bridge is removed and new lanes are completed on the north and southbound off and on ramps.

Caltrans has approved full freeway closures for Ramona Expressway and the I-215 project for the nights of and July 22-27.

Traffic will be taken off the interstate at the Ramona Expressway off-ramps and returned at the Ramona on-ramps. The northbound exit will be closed between 9 p.m. and 4 a.m. on July 22-27. The southbound exit will be closed between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. on July 22-27.



The new expansion of off-ramps at Ramona Expressway and I-215 in Perris includes the addition of another lane for traffic exiting the freeway.

Project engineer Chris Sunde said work to widen the bridge over the freeway at Ramona is largely



Traffic exiting southbound I-215 often backs up. The addition of another exit lane should help remove a major bottleneck.

completed. New off-ramps have been carved to prevent backups from snarling freeway traffic and those new lanes will be paved during the upcoming closures.

Sunde said the \$7.5 million project is expected to be completed by December.

"It will remove a huge bottleneck at Ramona Expressway," he said. "It will be a great improvement for the City of Perris." Perris Mayor Daryl Busch cited the new interchange as another example of the City's ability to partner with other agencies, in this case Riverside County.

The City earlier this year celebrated the opening of a new interchange at I-215 and Fourth Street and has embarked on a major effort to pave and repave streets throughout Downtown Perris and at the City's southern end.

Busch said the Ramona interchange is badly needed. Any inconvenience to motorists when the interchange is closed will be more than made up in the improvements coming when the project finishes.

"It's been needed for a long time," he said. "We want to make sure people who travel through our City do so safely." Perris Mayor Pro-Tem Al Landers said the new interchange creates a much-improved entrance to the north side of Perris, a major benefit to business owners, visitors and commuters.

"It is not only a win-win for the City, it is a win-win for all the people who travel that corridor," Landers said. "We wanted to address the situation before it became a major problem. And we have."

In addition to the new ramps and bridge-work, Sunde said a piece of decorative art—a 15-foot high tower that resembles the bell tower on the City of Perris campus. The tower also will include the City's seal. Plans call for the tower to be constructed on the northeast corner of the Ramona Expressway Bridge.



Heavy machinery remove blacktop while making improvements to the on-ramp at I-215 and Ramona Expressway. Work on the \$7.5 million project should wrap up by year's end.

Official Closure Notice

Closure Activity	Closure Location	Date, Time and Details
Full Freeway Closures	Southbound I-215 at Redlands Avenue/4th Street	Tuesday, July 24, Wednesday, July 25 and Thursday, July 26 A full freeway closure will occur each night from 9 pm to 5 am the following morning. During these closures, motorists will be detoured to the Redlands Avenue/4th Street off-ramp and redirected onto the southbound I-215 Redlands Avenue/4th Street on-ramp.
Full Freeway Closures	Northbound I-215 at Redlands Avenue/4th Street	Tuesday, July 24, Wednesday, July 25 and Thursday, July 26 A full freeway closure will occur each night from 10 pm to 4 am the following morning. During these closures, motorists will be detoured to the Redlands Avenue/4th Street off-ramp and redirected onto the northbound I-215 Redlands Avenue/4th Street on-ramp.