



Perris News

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Historic D Street Re-opens

Historic D Street in Downtown Perris re-opened Tuesday, about three months after construction closed down the thoroughfare as part of a major renovation to the business district.

Traffic was flowing in both directions on D Street Tuesday afternoon after the road re-opened with new asphalt paving. D Street had been closed from San Jacinto Avenue to First Street since early December, although businesses in the affected area have remained open the entire time.

"D Street is the heart of Downtown Perris and that heart is beating stronger than ever today," said City Councilman Mark Yarbrough. "I am pleased that the City worked with the construction contractor very diligently to make this happen. There were several major storms but through it all we persevered. These are growing pains. You feel them for a while but when everything is completed, the street and the entire Downtown will look so good. It's going to look fantastic."

City Councilman Al Landers echoed those sentiments.

"I know it's been tough for the merchants, but it's progress, and when it's all done, business will be better than ever," Landers said. "We care deeply about our merchants and we've moved as quickly as we could to get those improvements done. They will make our town a great attraction for visitors and Perris residents."

The City is remaking D Street as part of a long-term visionary plan, known as the Perris Gateway Project, to redevelop the entire Downtown Area.

Work currently underway has closed D Street from San Jacinto Avenue and First Street to vehicle traffic.

The Perris Gateway Project consists of a widening of the intersection of D Street and San Jacinto Avenue to the ultimate General Plan street dimensions. The project also includes enhanced decorative paving, lighting, landscaping, and new monument signs in front of the City Hall campus to welcome motorists exiting the I-215 freeway. The Gateway Project also includes the construction of streetscape between San Jacinto and First Street, traffic signals at the intersection, and coordination with Riverside County Transportation Commission and Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway to install new railroad crossing arms on San Jacinto Avenue.

Work on the Perris Gateway Project is expected to start in early April.

The Perris Gateway Project is expected to cost about \$1.5 million. The bulk of funds to pay for the improvements have come from federal and county sources. City funds are paying for about three percent of the costs.

The Gateway Project encompasses one phase of a long-range concept aimed at remaking the Downtown Area into a shopping and dining district that retains its historical charm while attracting residents and visitors from all over the Inland Empire. Proposals call for shops, apartments, restaurants and offices along the D Street Promenade Project.



Traffic moves north on D Street from First Street to San Jacinto Avenue late Tuesday afternoon. The thoroughfare reopened to vehicles after about three months but construction continues on other improvements along D Street.