

Route 56 is nearly completed | Long-awaited final segment may open in mid-July; [6,7 Edition]

Jeff Ristine. *The San Diego Union - Tribune*. San Diego, Calif.: Jun 5, 2004. pg. B.3

Abstract (Document Summary)

Barring complications, the highway is expected to open July 18 or 19, Pedro Orso, Caltrans district director, said yesterday at a seminar in Del Mar on commuting.

Along southbound I-5, an auxiliary lane being added to the main lanes between state Route 56 and Carmel Mountain Road will open in fall 2006 instead of 2007, he said. The lane will serve traffic exiting onto Carmel Mountain Road.

New northbound lanes through the merge, which will create a bypass for trucks and improved access to Route 56 and other exits, are on track for completion in summer 2005. The southbound work there, more complicated because of the need for a retaining wall and extensive foundation work, is scheduled to be done in 2007.

Full Text (399 words)

Copyright SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY Jun 5, 2004

Editions vary

Completion of the long-awaited final segment of state Route 56, which will open a new connection between Interstates 5 and 15 and a major link in the regional transportation network, has been set for mid-July.

Barring complications, the highway is expected to open July 18 or 19, Pedro Orso, Caltrans district director, said yesterday at a seminar in Del Mar on commuting.

"That's going to be huge," Orso said.

The \$220 million project fills a gap between Carmel Valley and Rancho Penasquitos in the four-lane freeway. In opening a new east-west connection in north San Diego, it is expected to provide immediate relief to some of the major surface streets between the communities, including Mira Mesa Boulevard, Miramar Road and Black Mountain Road.

The opening date isn't yet official and could be pushed back by last-minute delays or an unlikely stretch of rain. The city of San Diego is expected to mark the occasion with an on-site celebration a day or two before the opening.

The California Department of Transportation estimates the highway will carry as many as 120,000 vehicles daily by 2020.

Orso had other welcome news for I-5 commuters.

A northbound auxiliary lane between Del Mar Heights Road and Via de la Valle will be finished in about a week, he said. The lane will provide a longer stretch for lane changes and allow motorists to drive between the two interchanges without weaving in and out of traffic.

Caltrans started the work last year, and Orso said the agency wanted to be done in time for Friday's opening of the San Diego County Fair at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Orso also said one portion of an ongoing project at the I-5/805 merge will be completed about a year ahead of schedule.

Along southbound I-5, an auxiliary lane being added to the main lanes between state Route 56 and Carmel

Mountain Road will open in fall 2006 instead of 2007, he said. The lane will serve traffic exiting onto Carmel Mountain Road.

New northbound lanes through the merge, which will create a bypass for trucks and improved access to Route 56 and other exits, are on track for completion in summer 2005. The southbound work there, more complicated because of the need for a retaining wall and extensive foundation work, is scheduled to be done in 2007.

Jeff Ristine: (619) 542-4580; jeff.ristine@uniontrib.com

Credit: STAFF WRITER

Reproduced with permission of the copyright owner. Further reproduction or distribution is prohibited without permission.

People: Orso, Pedro

Section: LOCAL

Text Word Count 399

Document URL: