

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

50 HIGUERA STREET
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401-5415
TELEPHONE: (805) 549-3111
TDD (805) 549-3259
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05>



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Route 1/17 Merge Lanes

ROUTE 1/17 MERGE LANES PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

Construction continues on the 1/17 Merge Lanes Project with bridge work in Branciforte and Carbonera creeks, median widening, soundwall construction, and utility relocations.

Bridge work in Branciforte and Carbonera creeks is on the critical path of the project schedule. Fish and Game Permit requirements limit this work to between June 15 and October 15. Creek diversions are in place, and bridge pier improvements are in process. Piles are being driven along the creek banks for bridge foundations. We are working towards completing all of the creek work this season to avoid going back next June. Unanticipated buried concrete was found at various locations in the creeks in conflict with the bridge construction, and a fairly large change order was written for its removal - \$80k.

Widening in the median is required to accommodate the additional merge lanes. Unsuitable material for highway base was found in the median, and was replaced. A \$300k change order was written for this work.

Soundwall construction is progressing well. Clearing and grubbing, and fence removal continues along the project limits in preparation for the walls. Soundwall foundations for soundwalls F, G, and H are complete. Soundwalls E and A are in progress.

Utility relocations by PG&E and PacBell are ongoing at Market Street.

The project staging sequencing has been modified to avoid utility relocation conflicts, reduce impacts to highway traffic, and the need to close the Market Street undercrossing twice. The Market Street undercrossing was originally closed May to August; this closure has been extended through March 2007. Reconstruction of the Branciforte overcrossing was planned to start in August; now moved to March 2007.

A closed circuit television camera will be operational in late August to allow web users the ability to view traffic in real-time at the interchange. A link will be placed at the project website (www.hwy1-17.caltrans.ca.gov) when this becomes available.

Luis Duazo,
Caltrans, Project Manager

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