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EA 05-12910
Route 1/17 Merge Lanes

ROUTE 1/17 MERGE LANES PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

- All temporary concrete barrier railing has been removed from the project. This signifies the end of major construction. Final paving, lane line striping, lighting and signs, and punch list items remain. The project is now 90% complete with construction complete expected in late October.
- Final paving of the traveled lanes will utilize open-graded asphalt to reduce traffic noise, and improve highway drainage. Open-graded asphalt is made of aggregate (rock) which is all the same size to create air voids, similar to the air voids created between marbles in a container. These voids in the pavement absorb tire noise, and allow water to travel below the surface of the pavement. Studies have shown that a 6db noise reduction can be achieved with its use.
- Landscaping will begin in Spring 2009. The landscape plans utilize drought tolerant, low maintenance species, most of which are native to the area. Over 600 trees are proposed to be planted along with large shrubs, ground cover plants, and vines along soundwalls; and more than 3,300 new plants are proposed. About half of the ground surface on freeway shoulders will be covered with a 2" layer of wood chip mulch, the rest of the ground will be seeded with native grasses, wildflowers and shrubs. The landscape contract will include a 3-year plant establishment period wherein weeds will be controlled, plants will be pruned and replaced as needed, and vines will be trained to cover walls.

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