



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans Finishes New Interchange Upgrades at State Route 99 and Pelandale Avenue in Stanislaus County

Stanislaus County – Caltrans, together with the city of Modesto, Stanislaus Council of Governments and Stanislaus County, today celebrated the completion of the State Route 99/Pelandale Avenue Interchange Project, which is a vital component in enhancing the transportation system in North Modesto and Salida.

The project built a new interchange and auxiliary lane, replacing the existing 45-year-old structure built in 1970. It doubled the number of lanes on the overcrossing, built new on and off-ramps, added merging lanes to improve traffic flow and included a large “Welcome to Modesto” sign to southbound motorists.

“This project will bring significant benefits to the area,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. “Commuters will benefit from less congestion and the local economy will get a boost because it is now easier to travel to and from the city’s regional shopping center and industrial parks.”

The Pelandale Interchange plays a major role in the economic health of the region, with more than 15,000 commercial trucks passing through the area each day. Overall traffic has increased significantly over the years as well, with more than 110,000 vehicles passing through this interchange each day, and is forecasted to approach 200,000 per day by the year 2035.

“This is the largest transportation project in our City’s recent history,” said Bill Sandhu, Public Works Director for the City of Modesto. “It is monumental for Modesto. As the north gateway into our community, this will serve as a beacon to travelers along Highway 99. Not only is travel safety improved and traffic congestion eased, but the welcome signage is the crown-jewel of this project, giving Modesto the name recognition it deserves, a friendly invitation to visitors and a welcome home for residents.”

The benefits of the project include reducing traffic congestion and providing a high-capacity interchange to State Route 99; increasing traffic safety and enhancing the flow of commerce; and new sidewalks to improve mobility and healthy living.

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“When the California Transportation Commission’s cost savings funds became available, Modesto was able to make use of those funds so that they could be rapidly re-invested, increasing the return on investment to taxpayers and providing more bang for the buck by completing an additional project that was not previously in the mix,” said Rosa De Leon Park, Executive Director of the Stanislaus Council of Governments. “This significant regional project was able to benefit from Proposition 1B costs savings, because the city had the vision and commitment to do the hard work of planning and engineering the project to a level of shovel-readiness so that the project could move swiftly forward when the funds became available.”

The SR-99/Pelandale Avenue Interchange Project received \$41.6 million from Proposition 1B, the \$19.9 billion transportation bond approved by voters in 2006. More than \$19 billion in Prop. 1B funds have been put to work for transportation purposes.

In addition to the SR-99/Pelandale Interchange Project, Caltrans worked closely with its local partners on the recently completed State Route 99/Kiernan Avenue Interchange Project and the SR-99/SR-219 Interchange Reconstruction Project, which both provide an improved and direct connection to State Route 99.

Caltrans would like to extend its appreciation to motorists and residents for their patience and cooperation during the construction of the SR-99/Pelandale Interchange Project.

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