

Caltrans Update

Fresno Council of Governments

"Caltrans improves mobility across California"

California Highway Pavement Healthiest in 10 years



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Caltrans has announced that the condition of the pavement on California's highways is at its healthiest level in more than a decade, according to the recently released 2013 *State of the Pavement Report*.

"It's important to maintain and preserve the existing transportation system first and foremost before making other improvements," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "This improvement in our pavement proves that we are committed to doing just that."

Caltrans reported that the percent of healthy pavement on the state highway system increased from 75 to 84 percent from 2011 to 2013 – an increase of 4,500 lane miles of smoother pavement.

Caltrans maintains its aging state highway system even while it carries nearly 35 million vehicles. Each year, the depart-

ment surveys the condition of its pavement to determine how much of the system needs maintenance.

Annual maintenance needs far outpace dependable funding, but Caltrans uses high-tech strategies, recycling, and innovative treatments to make pavement last longer, to stretch every dollar and to preserve the environment. Cold-in-place recycling allows Caltrans to recycle and reprocess existing pavement without leaving the construction site. That method, and using rubberized hot-mix asphalt and warm-mix asphalt, has reduced more than 61,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

Caltrans used one-time funds from the 2006 Proposition 1B transportation bond and the 2009 Recovery Act to help pay for nearly \$4 billion in pavement projects on nearly 18,000

lane miles in the last four years. Continued improvement of pavement health is contingent on a stable funding source for road rehabilitation and repair.

Caltrans reported on pavement health and other road maintenance conditions earlier this year in its publication *Mile Marker*, a plain language and clearly written report on how Caltrans is performing and the current state of the California transportation system.

Mile Marker is available online at

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/>

The 2013 State of the Pavement Report is available online at:

http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/maint/Pavement/Pavement_Program/PDF/2013_SOP_FINAL-Dec_2013-1-24-13.pdf

Caltrans Takes Steps To Save Water!

With California facing its driest year on record, Governor Brown has declared a drought State of Emergency and directed state officials to take all necessary actions to prepare for water shortages.

In response to the state's severe drought, Caltrans is launching a statewide educational campaign on the state's highways, urging all Californians to conserve water. Starting in February, California's more than 700 electronic highway signs have been displaying the message:

**SERIOUS DROUGHT
HELP SAVE WATER**

Caltrans will support the www.saveourh20.org campaign by using California's electronic Changeable Message Signs along the highways to raise

awareness of the severe drought and encourage Californians to conserve water. The signs will be activated when there are no critical emergency or traffic safety messages or Amber Alerts.

Across state government, action is being taken. As a large department responsible for 30,000 acres of irrigated landscaping, Caltrans is doing its part by cutting water usage along California's roadways by 50 percent.

Effective February, Caltrans began taking the following actions:

- Cut statewide irrigation activities by at least 50 percent.
- Delay all new landscaping projects in severely impacted areas until the next rainy season to preserve the water

supply. Postpone all non-essential highway planting.

- Cease watering in areas of the state suffering from the most severe drought impacts.
- Expand the use of smart irrigation technologies, which turn off automatically when it rains. Such systems can reduce water usage by as much as 50-60 percent.
- Use recycled water for irrigation and other activities whenever possible.
- Forgo washing state vehicles except when necessary for safety.

The department is taking these conservation steps because the historic drought threatens all Californians with a dangerously dry summer and protecting the public and water supply is a top priority.

"Caltrans has taken action to sharply restrict water usage," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "Using our highway message signs, we are asking California's 24 million drivers to join us in this important effort."

Governor Brown has called on all Californians to voluntarily reduce their water usage by 20 percent, and the [Save Our Water](http://www.saveourh20.org) campaign launched four public service announcements encouraging residents to conserve and has resources available in Spanish.



Caltrans Maintenance Workers Assist in CHP Accident Investigation/Funeral

California Highway Patrol (CHP) Officers Brian Law, 34, and Juan Gonzalez, 33, died on February 17, 2014 while responding to a report of an accident. They were in the same patrol car heading south on State Route 99 toward a pre-dawn crash in Kingsburg, California. The patrol car, driven by Gonzalez, veered off the road, apparently trying to avoid a pedestrian involved in the original collision. Both officers died at the scene. They are the first Fresno CHP officers to die in the line of duty since 1962.

Caltrans Maintenance workers were dispatched to the accident site to assist the CHP Multidisciplinary Accident Investigation Team (MAIT). Caltrans workers closed southbound State Route 99 at Mountain View Avenue, detouring traffic onto Kingsburg city streets, remaining at the scene the day of the accident from about 6:30 in the morning until 10:00 that night. State Route 99 was progressively reopened once the CHP MAIT team completed their investigation. Once the site investigation was complete, Caltrans Maintenance workers set about making repairs to struc-

tures (guardrail) that had been damaged as a result of the accident.

A memorial service for both officers was held at the Save Mart Center. More than 2,500 people were in attendance. Officer Axel Reyes of the CHP's Fresno office said the Save Mart Center was rented for the event with donations from the community. The two officers were buried in separate funeral services following the memorial. Officer Law was laid to rest in the Clovis Cemetery in Clovis, California. Offer Gonzalez was laid to rest in the North Tulare Public Cemetery just north of the City of Tulare.

The funeral procession carrying the officers from the Save Mart Center to the two separate cemeteries required the closure of a number of local streets and freeway on ramps. Prior to the funeral, Officer Shawn Willis of the CHP contacted Caltrans Maintenance and asked Caltrans' assistance in coordinating freeway ramp closures to facilitate the movement of the funeral processions. Prior to funeral, Caltrans Maintenance personnel from the Fresno and Visalia

area met with CHP and other allied agencies to discuss the procession route.

On the day of the funeral, Caltrans Maintenance forces assisted the Fresno Police Department in closing approximately twenty-six freeway on-ramps. The procession route was as follows: from the Save Mart Center, the procession drove to the Clovis Cemetery using city streets. From the Clovis Cemetery, the procession entered onto State Route 168 at Herndon Avenue and headed westbound, merged on to westbound State Route 180. From there, the procession merged on to southbound State Route 41 then to State Route 99. Once on State Route 99, the procession drove to the Tulare County Cemetery just north of the City of Tulare.

Fresno area Maintenance personnel conducted the closures needed in Fresno County, while Visalia area Maintenance personnel conducted the closures in Tulare County.

Socializing Caltrans: Leveraging the Power of Social Media

Caltrans Headquarters launched a new social media page on the Caltrans website this past summer!

Due to Caltrans' Internet use policy, Caltrans employees may not be able to access all of the new social media links from their work computer. But social media allows us to use powerful online tools to keep the traveling public and our employees better informed. Plus — and this is a big plus — these powerful online tools are all *free*.

“Social media isn’t a substitute for the traditional channels we use to communicate with the public and media about Caltrans activities — it’s an additional tool,” said Chief of Media Relations and Public Affairs Lauren Wonder. “We will always need news releases and press conferences, but social media allows us to be more nimble in our communications, to keep the public informed in real time in ways that were unthinkable just a few years ago.”

To encourage the public to access Caltrans' social media sites, the new launch page on the Caltrans website provides one-stop shopping for almost all social media platforms used by the districts and Headquarters. You'll find links to Twitter, YouTube and Facebook, as well as contact

links and RSS feeds, which allow users to sign up to receive updates automatically.

[Twitter](#) has also become an valuable resource for District 6, allowing us to quickly inform the public about closures, disruptive accidents, delays, community meetings, construction milestones and much more. With each message capped at 140 characters, our tweets are not only a quick, efficient way to communicate important information, but also an effective means to drive the Twitter audience to our websites and blog, creating cross-platform synergy.

Our Twitter followers include media outlets, other transportation agencies, chambers of commerce, elected officials, law enforcement, businesses and citizens. The platform is particularly useful to provide real-time updates on closures, progress reports and photos.

Caltrans District 6 is also on [Facebook!](#) Facebook serves as another social media outlet for providing the public with traffic information, including accidents, lane closures, and weather events such as fog.

Although it's not technically a social media platform, the new Caltrans [QuickMap](#) is fast becoming another popular online tool.

QuickMap provides motorists with real-time traffic and travel information. Users can access nearly 1,000 freeway cameras and more than 700 electronic message signs throughout California. They can also monitor traffic congestion, California Highway Patrol incidents, travel time information, lane closures, Amber Alerts, and traffic speeds.

Caltrans' core function is to build, maintain and operate state freeways and highways — all of which are vital to our mission: improving mobility across California. Providing information about the system also allows us to improve mobility. Through the use of online tools Caltrans can — and *is* — empowering people to make better transportation decisions every day.

ONLINE RESOURCES

Caltrans Social Media Launch Page:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/socialmedia>

District 6 Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/@caltransdist6>

District 6 Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/caltranscentralvalleydistrict6>

Caltrans QuickMap:

<http://quickmap.dot.ca.gov>

MORE CALIFORNIANS ARE WALKING, BIKING, AND RIDING TRANSIT

Results from the California Household Travel Survey – the largest and most complex review of its kind – show that the percentage of California residents walking, biking, or using public transportation on a typical day has more than doubled since 2000.

“Based on this research, we can make good decisions about transportation that will improve mobility, air quality, and travel choices for all Californians and make our state a better place to live and work,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty.

Nearly 23 percent of household trips were taken by walking, biking, and public transportation. In 2000, that share was only 11 percent. This increase includes a dramatic increase in walking trips, which nearly doubled from 8.4 percent to 16.6 percent of trips.

“This increasing interest in many transportation choices is another reason why we are on the path to more sustainability in California,” said California State Transportation Agency Secretary Brian Kelly. “Caltrans will continue improving the state’s transportation system to help ensure Californians have many viable choices for how to travel.”

The 2012 study provides a snapshot of the travel behavior of approximately 109,000 persons from more than 42,000 house-

holds in 58 California counties, this included parents driving to work or kids biking to school.

Participants received diaries and recorded where and when they travelled and how they got to and from their destinations on one random day. The average number of trips for a household was 9.2, while the average number of trips per person was 3.6.

“Californians are increasingly choosing alternatives to driving a car for work and play. That’s a shift with real benefits for public health that also cuts greenhouse gases and smog-forming pollution,” said Chairman of the California Air Resources Board Mart D. Nichols. “California is committed to supporting this shift with better planning to support sustainable communities and healthier, low-carbon choices for travel.”

Last year, legislation was approved creating California’s \$129 million Active Transportation Program, which distributes funding for human-powered transportation projects and programs to increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking.

“Californians are increasingly determined to get places on their own power, and Caltrans is determined to help them do that,” said Dougherty. “Active transportation projects, such as bicycle and pedestrian paths, are an important

part of achieving mobility, safety, and sustainability goals for California’s transportation system.”

Caltrans and regional transportation planning agencies will use the CHTS data to forecast future travel demands and greenhouse gas emissions and look for ways to improve transportation to meet the needs of the state’s residents.

The CHTS was a partnership among Caltrans, the California Air Resources Board, the California Energy Commission (CEC), the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the California Department of Public Health, and transportation planning agencies statewide. The survey data will be used by all of the agencies for various purposes. The study was jointly funded by Caltrans, the Strategic Growth Council, CEC, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, and seven transportation planning agencies. Their generous contributions are as follows:

Caltrans: \$4,221,000

Strategic Growth Council:
\$2,028,000

Metropolitan Transportation
Commission: \$1,515,000

Southern California Association
of Governments: \$1,415,834

Council of Fresno County Gov-
ernments: \$49,500

Kern Council of Governments:
\$118,000

Association of Monterey Bay
Area Governments: \$183,810

MORE CALIFORNIANS ARE WALKING, BIKING, AND RIDING TRANSIT, CONT.

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District: \$150,000
Santa Barbara County Association of Governments: \$33,000
Tulare County Association of Governments: \$49,500
California Energy Commission: \$250,000

The CHTS has been conducted roughly every 10 years since

1991. The most recent review began in January 2012 and ended in February 2013. The survey data will assist the department in developing and updating transportation models.

The entire report is available at:

http://dot.ca.gov/hq/tsip/otfa/tab/documents/chts_finalreport/FinalReport.pdf

UPDATE ON FRESNO COUNTY PROJECTS

Repair Wire Theft Damage: In Fresno and Madera Counties at various locations. Funding: SHOPP. Project awarded on 11/19/2013. Construction contract approved December 9, 2013. Anand Kapoor, Project Manager, (559)243-3588.

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HST – Bakersfield to Fresno Segment: High Speed Train System from the City of Bakersfield to south of Clinton Avenue in the City of Fresno. Funding: HSRA (ARRA & BOND). Ready to list fall 2013; project to be awarded summer 2014; end construction summer 2018. Garth Fernandez, Project Manager, (559) 243-8012.

Panoche Overlay: Pavement Rehabilitation on I-5 from south of the Panoche Road overcrossing to north of the Russell Road overcrossing. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list summer 2014; advertise fall 2014; begin construction end of 2014; complete construction end of 2014. Bob Hull, Project Manager, (559) 243-3443.

Extend Culverts or Install K Rails - 6 Locations: Install guardrail and extend culverts on SRs 33, 46, 63, 119, 216, 223 at various locations in Fresno, Kern and Tulare counties. Funding: SHOPP. Project in construction. Anand Kapoor, Project Manager, (559) 243-3588

Jacalitos Creek Bridge: Replace bridge on SR 33 near the City of Coalinga at Jacalitos Creek. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list spring 2014; advertise summer 2014; begin construction early 2015; end construction spring 2015. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

FRE 41 CAPM: Pavement preservation on SR 41 north of the City of Lemoore from Harlan Avenue to Elkhorn Avenue. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list summer 2014; advertise summer 2014; begin construction end of 2014; complete construction early 2015. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

Fresno 41/180 Outside Shoulder Barrier: Replace existing right side metal beam guard rail with concrete barrier on southbound SR 41 to the westbound SR 180 interchange ramp in the City of Fresno. Funding: SHOPP. Begin construction spring 2014; complete construction fall 2014. Earle Jones, Project Manager, (559) 243-3471.

Ramp Improvement at SR41 and SR180: Install concrete barriers on SR 41 and SR 180 at ramps at Abby Avenue, McKinley Avenue, Shields Avenue, Shaw Avenue, Herndon Avenue, and Friant Avenue in the City of Fresno.

UPDATE ON FRESNO COUNTY PROJECTS, CONT.

Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list achieved January 30, 2014; advertise spring 2014; award contract summer 2014; begin construction late summer 2014; complete construction summer 2015. Judy Aguilar-Luna, Project Manager, (559) 243-3457.

Ramp Meter Replacement Planting: Replacement planting on SR 41 between Ashlan Avenue overcrossing to Herndon Avenue undercrossing in the City of Fresno. Funding: SHOPP. In construction and on schedule; complete construction summer 2016. Anand Kapoor, Project Manager, (559) 243-3588.

Olive Avenue Signals: At SR 99/Olive on- and off-ramps in the City of Fresno; ramp metering included. Funding Minor A. CTC approved funding June 2010. Advertise spring 2014; complete construction late summer 2014. Steven Milton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3451.

06-2HT00_ HST-Fresno to Merced Segment: High Speed Train System from south of Clinton Avenue in the City of Fresno to the City of Merced. Funding: HSRA (ARRA & BOND). Ready to list summer 2013; complete construction summer 2017. Garth Fernandez, Project Manager, (559) 243-8012.

06-2HT10_ SR 99 Realignment from Clinton to Ashlan: Realignment of SR 99 to accommodate the High Speed Train System

from south of Clinton Avenue in the City of Fresno to Ashlan Ave. Funding: HSRA (ARRA & BOND). Ready to list summer 2015; advertise fall 2015; begin construction Jan 2016. Garth Fernandez, Project Manager, (559) 243-8012.

San Joaquin River 6-Lane: Replace the SR 99/San Joaquin River bridge and widen SR 99 from Grantland Avenue overcrossing in the City of Fresno to north of the Avenue 7 overcrossing in Madera County. Funding: Prop 1B Bond. In construction; construction complete summer 2016. The contractor continues on the new southbound bridge foundation in the river bottom and construction of falsework for the new bridge. The mainline lanes shift as work continues. Jim Bane, Project Manager, (559) 243-3469.

Veterans Blvd. Interchange: New interchange on SR 99 between Herndon Avenue and Shaw Avenue on Veterans Boulevard in the City of Fresno. Funding: Measure, local. Ready to list early 2015; begin construction summer 2015; complete construction summer 2017. Jim Bane (559) 243-3469.

Herndon Avenue Interchange Improvements: Remove off-ramp and intersection improvements at the SR 99/Herndon Avenue interchange in the City of Fresno. Funding: Developer, local. Project is currently in construction; com-

plete construction summer 2014. Steven Milton, Project Manager, (559) 243-3451.

Kerman Roundabout SR 145/Jensen: SR 145 at Jensen Avenue in the City of Kerman. Funding: SHOPP. Recommendation to award on December 26, 2013; construction to start sometime May 2014; end construction fall 2014. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

168 Maintenance Access: Construct freeway maintenance access in the Cities of Fresno and Clovis on State Route 168 from the 180/168 separation to Shepherd Avenue. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list early 2015; advertise spring 2015; begin construction summer 2015. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

Clovis Median Barrier: Construct median barrier on SR 168 in the City of Clovis between the Herndon Avenue undercrossing to the Clovis Avenue undercrossing. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list spring 2015. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

Prather Curve Correction: Realign the curve on SR 168 and Auberry Road near the community of Prather. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list fall 2014; advertise fall 2014; begin construction

UPDATE ON FRESNO COUNTY PROJECTS, CONT.

end of 2015. Bob Hull, Project Manager, (559) 243-3443.

Auberry Road Intersection: Intersection improvements at the SR 168/Auberry Road intersection near the community of Prather. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list fall 2015; advertise winter 2015; begin construction early 2016; complete construction early 2017. Hussein Senan, Project Manager, (559) 243-3586.

Munger Point Enhancement: Enhance Maynard Munger vista point on SR 168 east of the community of Prather. Funding: STIP, TE. Project advertised in February but not yet awarded; construction to start in May or June of 2014; end construction summer 2015. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.

180 West Freeway Landscape: Highway planning on SR 180 in and near the City of Fresno from west of Brawley Avenue to Teilman Avenue. Funding: STIP. Ready to list fall 2015; end construction fall 2020. Bob Hull, Project Manager, (559) 243-3443.

180 Braided Ramps: On SR 180 between SR 41 & SR 168 in the City of Fresno. Funding: SHOPP. Design-Build project was awarded and construction contract was approved January 2012. All ramps are now open in their final configuration. A few of the two-lane ramps only have one lane open at this time due to final construction activities being com-

pleted. All lanes are scheduled to be opened March 8, 2014, weather permitting. There will still be minor punch list items to address and a new sound wall will be constructed near the Romain Park area (NB 41 to EB 180 connector). We are still negotiating with the contractor regarding widening of the connector ramp from EB 180 to SB 41. There will be ongoing construction activities for the next 3 to 4 months. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

180 Braided Ramps Landscaping Project: Freeway landscaping in the City of Fresno from west of the Route 180S/Route 41 separation to east of the Peach Avenue overcrossing. Funding: Measure. Ready to list fall 2014. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

Sequoia Freeway Landscape Project: Highway planting and install irrigation on SR 180 in the City of Fresno between west of Clovis Avenue overcrossing to east of Temperance Avenue. Funding: RIP. CTC approved funding March 2012. Contract approved in September 2012; in construction; end construction winter 2016. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

Kings Canyon Expressway Segment 2: SR 180 from Academy Avenue to Smith Road near the community of Centerville. Funding: Measure, Prop 1B Bond. Project was awarded April 23, 2013; construction began August 2013;

end construction fall 2015. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

Kings Canyon Expressway Segment 3: SR 180 from Smith Rd. to Alta Main Canal near the community of Centerville. Funding: RIP, Measure. Ready to list late 2014; advertise early 2015; award contract spring 2015; begin construction summer 2015 (pending funding availability). In design phase. Neil Bretz, Project Manager, (559) 243-3465.

Kings River Overflow Bridge Replacement: Replace the Kings River overflow bridge on SR 180 northeast of the City of Sanger. Funding: SHOPP. Contract is currently under winter suspension. Anticipate commencement of construction activities in July 2014. Construction is expected to last 2 seasons. Hussein Senan, Project Manager, (559)243-3586.

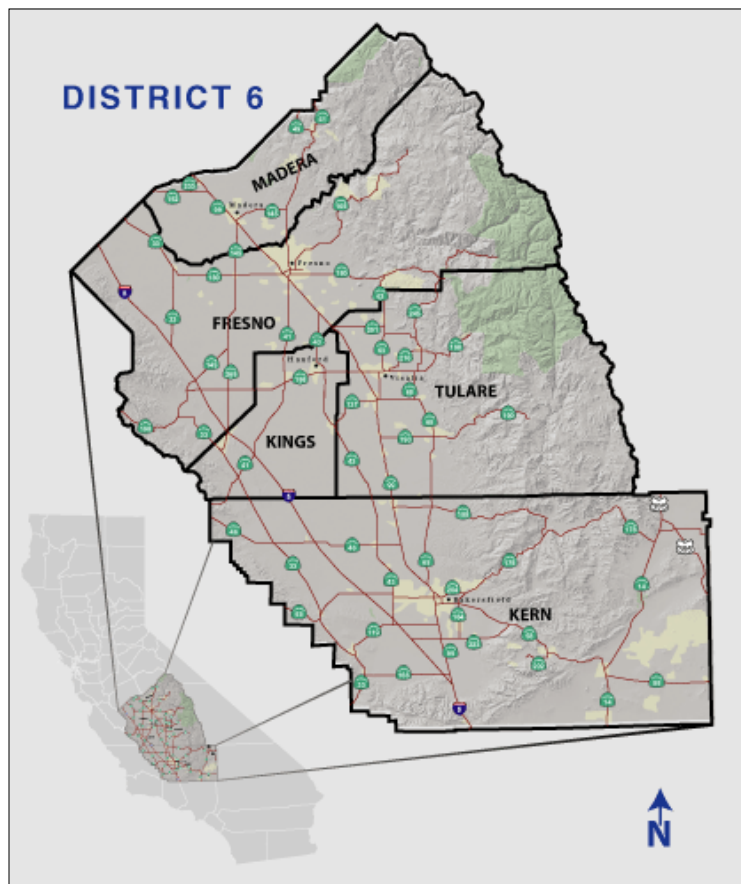
FRE 198 Bridge Deck Replacement: Replace the California Aqueduct bridge deck on SR 198 near the City of Huron. Funding: SHOPP. Ready to list late 2015; advertise early 2016; begin construction early 2016; complete construction spring 2016. Suzie Holdridge, Project Manager, (559) 243-3432.



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*Caltrans
District 6*

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 6 is headquartered in Fresno. This geographically diverse district is the second largest of the 12 Districts statewide, stretching from the southernmost part of Yosemite National Park in the north to the Mojave Desert. It includes Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kings and Kern counties. Interstate 5 and State Route 99 run the length of District 6, serving as the main north-south arteries for not just the Central Valley, but for the entire state as well.



Visit District 6 on the web at www.dot.ca.gov/dist6/