

Business Report



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Relief for Commuters in Southeast Los Angeles County



Ed Arnold, Radio Broadcaster



On Thursday, April 5, 2007, the Board of Directors of the I-5 Consortium Cities of Buena Park, La Mirada, Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, Downey and Commerce, in conjunction with the California Transportation Commission, Caltrans, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the U. S. Government hosted a groundbreaking ceremony that kicked off construction of the I-5 freeway widening project from the Los Angeles\Orange County line to the I-605 freeway interchange.

The press conference offered at last, some good news for weary commuters in Southeast Los Angeles County: funding has been secured to widen the I-5 Freeway from the Los Angeles County line to the I-605 Freeway interchange.

The milestone ceremony, held at 11:30 a.m. in the parking lot of Lowes Home Improvement at 14873 Carmenita Road in Norwalk, included attendees I-5 JPA Chairman Michael Mendez, Board Members Art Brown, Hal Malkin, Joe Serrano, David Gafin, Tina Baca del Rio and Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano.

The I-5 JPA stated they are extremely pleased to have the project receive the funds needed for this critical improvement project that focuses on one of the most challenged freeways in Southeast Los Angeles County. The work leading to this funding was years in the making, and the patience of residents and commuters was greatly appreciated. Caltrans, FHWA and MTA have developed an improvement strategy and program for this portion of the I-5 that will minimize disruption and inconvenience to the community. **(Continued on back.)**

Paddison Square Construction Nears Completion

Duckett-Wilson Development Company is making great progress toward completing their Paddison Square Shopping Center improvement project. The shopping center is located on the corner of Norwalk Blvd. and Imperial Hwy.

The project includes:

- A 2,600 square foot building on Norwalk Blvd. near the Bank of America that will house Verizon Mobile.
- A 2,600 square foot re-modeled building on Norwalk Blvd. between the Chevron gas station and the Bank of America is the Tacos Don Chente restaurant.
- A 10,800 square foot building, adjacent to the Target Garden Center has 6 tenant spaces ranging from 1,132 to 3,000 square feet. The new tenants include Payless Shoes, L&L Hawaiian Barbeque, and Professio Nails & Spa. These businesses are currently open and operating.



Another on-site improvement that has been made to the center is replacement of the existing parking lot lighting fixtures. There are a total of 17 new on-site parking lot light fixtures that will increase both lighting and safety.



Pictured above, the new Payless Shoe store at Paddison Square.

Additional shopping center architectural features & changes:

- Arches and columns throughout the shopping center.
- Tower elements throughout the center to provide added depth and dimension.
- A 6-foot wide canopy that projects from the exterior walls of the new buildings will provide an overhead cover for pedestrians and will create a strong architectural element.

The community looks forward to completion of the shopping center and the arrival of new businesses to Norwalk.

NORWALK CITY COUNCIL

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The widening of the I-5 from the County line to the I-605 freeway will cost approximately \$1.4 billion, and includes the reconstruction of the existing two-lane road interchange at Carmenita Rd. in Santa Fe Springs/Norwalk. Property acquisition and demolition by Caltrans has already started at this interchange. The entire project is now fully funded by multiple sources including California State STIP and Prop 1B dollars, MTA Prop C dollars and Federal funding including TEA 21, SAFETE-LU and other transportation appropriations. Improvements to the I-5 from the I-605 to north of the I-710 are currently being studied.

All press conference speakers agreed this project is a model of what can be accomplished through careful planning and persistence, inter-agency cooperation, voter awareness and community participation. Kudos went out to all the funding partners: the California Transportation Commission, Caltrans, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the U. S. Government.

Widening the bridge at Carmenita Rd. will be one of the first projects completed as part of the overall freeway improvement plan. The overpass is a high priority because it is the only one in Los Angeles County that has two lanes and produces severe bottlenecking for motorists as it narrows from four to two lanes. The overpass is located in a high traffic area in the middle of a busy commercial district. It is also a key access road to the I-5. Expansion of the bridge and freeway could mean less gas emissions from idle vehicles and less freeway traffic congestion.

About the I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority: I-5 JPA was formed in 1991 to “protect cities while increasing capacity and improving safety and efficiency of the I-5 by working with transportation authorities to design I-5 corridor improvements that will not cause economic and social disruption of communities.” I-5 Consortium Cities Joint Powers Authority (I-5 JPA) consists of the cities of Buena Park, La Mirada, Santa Fe Springs, Norwalk, Downey and Commerce.



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