

News and updates from a coalition of community and business leaders focused on the health and vitality of California's transportation backbone — **Interstate 5**

# Interchange



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## Truckin' Along...

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From the Executive Director

# I-5 as a Priority: The Big Picture



**By Victor Lindenheim**  
*Executive Director,  
Golden State Gateway Coalition*

**T**he Golden State Gateway Coalition's mission is to improve roadway transportation in northern Los Angeles County. And our priority remains the I-5 corridor, the backbone of state's roadway system.

Consider California's commerce... our manufacturing, retail, housing, tourism, entertainment, biotech, aerospace, defense, medical services, construction, import/export and information technology industries, among other businesses. Where would they be without Interstate



**Victor Lindenheim**

5 covers them all.

A colleague of mine, an executive in the logistics and trucking businesses, regularly reminds me that virtually every item in our homes, workplaces, malls,

5? And what about access to specialized healthcare? And higher education commuters, teachers and students? Inter-city bus riders, van-pools and motorcyclists?

Yes, many roads do some of these things. But Interstate

schools, hospitals and entertainment venues, saw the inside of a truck on its way to its final destination. I remind him that those trucks need roads in good condition with sufficient capacity to properly serve and satisfy his customers.

Interstate 5 improves our lives. It gives us access to what we need and what we want. Improving it sooner rather than later would create jobs, ease congestion, and give us cleaner air and safer roads. Let's find a way to get those new capacity improvements and maintenance upgrades (e.g. pavement rehabilitation) done now.

And that is why we believe that Interstate 5 should remain our priority.

Another City's Priorities...

**"We spend a lot of transportation money in the Houston region on roads, and for good reason: That's how most people travel. Houston is a growing place, and there aren't two or three job centers, there are about eight. Getting people between them ... is going to take roads."**

—Doug Begley, *Houston Chronicle*,  
quoted in Wendell Cox, "Driving Trend in Context," *New Geography*, May 28, 2013





# 47 Percent... and Counting!



Construction crews have been working on the structural portions of the I-5 truck lane project in preparation for paving of the new lane. *Photos by Thomas Ritter for Caltrans.*

## ***I-5 Truck Lanes on Track for Completion Late Next Year***

**By Tim Whyte**  
*Interchange Editor*

**D**on't blink: This job's going to be done before you know it.

"The project is about 47 percent complete," Kelly Markham, Public Information Officer for Caltrans District 7, said shortly before InterChange press time. "Project completion is expected in late 2014."

If you're new around here, that means by late 2014 the Interstate 5 freeway will have a new, dedicated southbound truck lane between the Ly-

ons/Pico interchange and the Newhall Pass, and the existing northbound truck lane in the Newhall Pass will be extended further northward.

"This will be a valuable addition to I-5 in the Golden State Gateway area of Northern Los Angeles County," says Gateway Coalition Chairman Tom DiPrima. "When the truck traffic gets its own lane it will benefit everyone who relies on this important stretch of the freeway — from commuters to first responders to truck drivers."

As of press time, construc-



tion crews were working on the structural portions of the 3.7-mile project. The structural work must be completed before paving can begin.

"The structural support portion on this project includes retaining walls and median widening of bridge decks," Markham said.

This spring, crews have been building a retaining wall adjacent to the southbound shoulder of I-5, just south of the Weldon Canyon overcrossing.

Also under construction have been median retaining walls between Weldon Can-

**See COVER, page 4**



**Existing bridges in the Newhall Pass are being widened to accommodate new truck lane project between Lyons Avenue and State Route 14. Photos by Thomas Ritter for Caltrans.**

## Cover

Continued from page 3

yon and the Calgrove Boulevard underpass, as well as a median bridge widening at the Calgrove underpass.

As the walls and bridge widenings have been under construction, crews also have performed work on underground utilities and drainage.

The contractor in late-spring began preparing for the architectural fascia of the retaining wall, and falsework for the Calgrove underpass bridge widening was erected. Shortly after that, the newly widened bridge deck was being poured and cured.

“We anticipate mainline paving operations to begin

by this fall,” Markham said.

“That’s great news for everyone who has been eagerly anticipating this project,” said Victor Lindenheim, Executive Director of the Gateway Coalition.

He praised Caltrans and the project contractor, Flatiron West, for minimizing the inconvenience construction has caused for motorists.

“It’s inevitable that you’ll have some construction-related delays with a project of this magnitude,” Lindenheim said. “However, Caltrans and Flatiron have done a superb job of making the process as painless as possible for motorists, by doing most of the work at night when traffic is lighter and keeping the freeway open at the most critical hours.”



**‘We anticipate mainline paving operations to begin by this fall.’**

**— Kelly Markham**  
*Caltrans Spokeswoman*



# Coming Soon to a Roadway Near You: Capacity and Mobility Improvements

By Victor Lindenheim  
Executive Director

Single roadways — including Interstate 5 — do not operate in isolation. Roadways are components of systems to move people, goods and services. Roadways are the building blocks of Los Angeles County's transportation system; a system that includes national, state, county and local/municipal infrastructure.

Several important local projects and projects of regional significance are now or soon to be under construction or in the planning stages. Here are a few:

- **Interstate 5 North Capacity Enhancements.** Interstate 5 is being widened toward the center median between the I-5/State Route 14 interchange and Calgrove Boulevard to accommodate new truck lanes, both northbound and southbound. The new truck lanes, along the outside edges of the freeway, will separate slow-moving commercial vehicles from passenger traffic in the steeply graded mixed flow lanes.

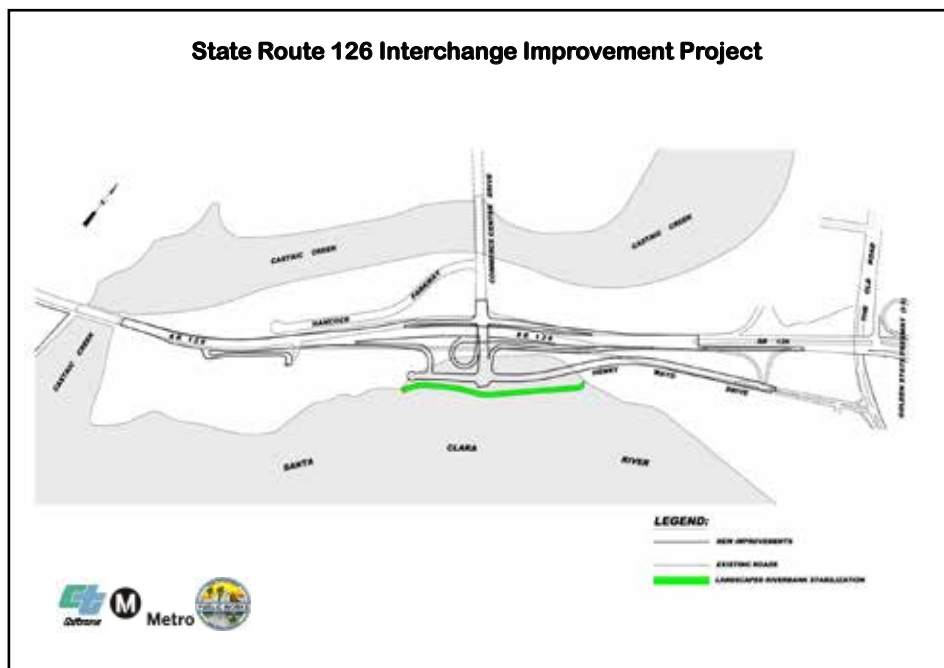
*Current Status:* Projected to be completed and open to traffic by late 2014.

- **SR 126/Commerce Center.** This project includes construction of a grade-separated interchange at the existing signalized intersection, new on and off ramps on Commerce Center Drive and Henry Mayo Drive, the widening of State Route 126, the installation of new traffic signals, and the realignment of Henry Mayo Drive.

*Current Status:* Construction start July/August 2013; completion by late 2016.

- **Old Town Newhall Roundabout.** A traffic roundabout, the City of Santa Clarita's first, will be built to replace the signalized three-way intersection where Fifth Street, Main Street and Newhall Avenue meet.

*Current Status:* Construction start July



**The interchange improvement project at State Route 126 and Commerce Center Drive is expected to be completed in 2016.**  
*Map courtesy of L.A. County Public Works Department.*

2013; completion in seven to nine months.

- **High Desert Corridor.** This is a big deal. A 63-mile-long, east-west multimodal and multipurpose transportation corridor that could include a freeway/expressway, toll lanes and/or high-speed rail feeder service between State Route 14 in Los Angeles County and State Route 18 in San Bernardino County.

*Current Status:* Environmental studies

in process with a hoped-for 2016 completion; public informational meetings held throughout July 2013.

- **SR 91.** The Riverside County Transportation Commission and project partners are preparing to make major improvements to State Route 91 from Corona to Riverside, utilizing an innovative design-build approach.

*Current Status:* Construction is planned to start in early 2014, with new lanes expected to open in 2017.

‘Roadways are components of systems to move people, goods and services. Roadways are the building blocks of Los Angeles County’s transportation system.’

# Next Stop: Bob Hope Airport

## Metrolink Station to Serve Burbank Airport

By Victor Lindenheim  
Executive Director

Based on a motion by L.A. County Metro Board Chair Michael Antonovich, the Metro Board of Directors recently approved the construction of a new Metrolink station on the Antelope Valley line to supplement “plane-to-train” connectivity, linking Santa Clarita, Palmdale and Lancaster to the Bob Hope Airport by rail.

On June 21, a groundbreaking celebration event was held at the station-stop-to-be location. The speakers included Supervisor Antonovich, Metrolink Chairman Patrick Morris, Metro board members Richard Katz and Ara Najarian, Assembly member Mike Gatto, Metro CEO Art Leahy and Airport Authority Vice President



**A host of dignitaries and elected officials from the county, region and state participated in the official groundbreaking of the new Metrolink station now under construction to serve the Bob Hope Airport in Burbank. Photos by Victor Lindenheim. See additional photos page 7.**

Susan Georgino. The city of Santa Clarita was represented by Councilwoman Marsha McLean.

The new Bob Hope Airport-Hollywood Way Metrolink Station will be located only one mile from the airport terminals. Once the station is operational, the air-

port authority plans to operate a free shuttle bus service linking the terminal to this station.

This project will complement the existing Burbank-Bob Hope Airport Metrolink Station on the Ventura County Line and the Regional Intermodal Trans-

portation Center (RITC) being constructed by the airport to accommodate a bus transfer facility and rental car facilities. The new Bob Hope Airport-Hollywood Way Metrolink Station and the Antelope Valley Line Infrastructure Improvement Strat-

**See HOPE, page 10**

**BOB HOPE AIRPORT-HOLLYWOOD WAY**

**Metrolink Station  
Groundbreaking**







Speakers at the Bob Hope Airport-Hollywood Way Metrolink Station groundbreaking included, clockwise from above: Metro Chief Executive Officer Art Leahy, Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael Antonovich and Metro board member Ara Najarian. The L.A. Muses (below) livened up the festivities with a performance of “Chattanooga Choo-Choo.” The new station, just a mile from the airport terminals, will improve access to the airport and give travelers additional options for ground transportation.  
*Photos by Victor Lindenheim.*





Dozens of stakeholders and elected officials participated in the grand opening celebration in winter 2013 for the high occupancy vehicle direct connect lane and bridge linking Interstate 5 and State Route 14. Among the speakers were, clockwise from below: Santa Clarita Councilman Bob Kellar, Metro board member Ara Najarian, Assemblyman Scott Wilk and Doug Failing, Executive Director of Highway Programs for Metro.

*Photos by Tim Whyte.*





## By the Numbers

• **\$1.6 billion:** Total investment being made by Caltrans for improvements to Interstate 5 from the Ventura Freeway (134) to the Kern County Line.

• **69 percent:** Percentage of completion, at press time, of the high occupancy vehicle lanes being constructed on I-5 between the Ronald Reagan Freeway (118) and the Hollywood Freeway (170).

Source: Caltrans



### Would you like more information about the Golden State Gateway Coalition?

If you are interested in supporting the Coalition's efforts to improve transportation in northern Los Angeles County, please visit our website:

[www.goldenstategateway.org](http://www.goldenstategateway.org)

## QuickTrips

A roundup of North Los Angeles County transportation issues and roadway project updates

## Mobility 21 Summit Oct. 29 at L.A. Live

Join Mobility 21 for California's largest one-day transportation conference and expo on Tuesday, Oct. 29, at the JW Marriott at L.A. Live.

The Golden State Gateway Coalition is a proud sponsor of the summit, whose theme this year is, "Connecting the Dots: Linking Infrastructure, Education & Healthcare."

This year's Southern California Transportation Summit promises to bring together more than 1,000 transportation stakeholders, industry leaders, elected officials and community activists.

This year's Summit will expand the dialogue beyond traditional stakeholders by focusing on the vital connections between transportation, water, energy, education and healthcare.

Registration includes access to top in-



dustry decision-makers and elected leaders, three general sessions, a choice of eight breakout sessions and a dynamic expo hall with over 100 exhibitors. General registration also includes a breakfast buffet, hot lunch, complimentary self-parking or Metrolink pass/Metro TAP card.

**Register:** <http://mobility21.com/summit/registration>

**Sponsor:** <http://mobility21.com/summit/sponsorship-opportunities>

**About the Summit:** <http://mobility21.com/summit/about-the-summit>

## New L.A. Mayor Appoints Trio to Metro

Source: Press release from Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti.

L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti has appointed Councilmember Mike Bonin, Councilmember Paul Krekorian, and "Jackie" Dupont-Walker as Los Angeles' representatives on the 13-member board of the L.A. County Metropolitan Transit Authority.

"I want to make sure we're careful and strategic with our transportation dollars.

That's the only way we're going to make a real difference in the traffic congestion that costs us billions of dollars in lost productivity and billions of hours in time away from our lives," Garcetti said. "I will work to make smart investments in bus and rail to improve the ride for transit-users, speed commutes for drivers, and create new jobs along transit lines and around stations."

**See METRO, page 11**

## Making Transportation Headlines...

• **June 27** — The Senate voted unanimously to confirm Charlotte, N.C., Mayor Anthony Foxx as Secretary of the Department of Transportation, replacing Ray LaHood.

• **July 1** — As part of Gov. Jerry Brown's reorganization plan, the new California State Transportation Agency begins operating. The new agency will be known as CalSTA and will include the Board of Pilot Commissioners, California Highway Patrol, California Transportation Commission, Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Department of

Motor Vehicles, High-Speed Rail Authority, New Motor Vehicle Board, and Office of Traffic Safety.

• **July 1** — The state's excise taxes on gasoline rises 3.5 cents to settle at 39.5 cents per gallon. The state's fuel tax is determined by the Board of Equalization, a five-member elected panel that oversees state tax policy. The Board voted 3-2 in February to approve the increase. Former State Sen. George Runner, now a BOE member, was among the two members voting "no."

# Coalition Welcomes New Members

## • Kimley-Horn & Associates

Kimley-Horn is principally an engineering and design firm with nearly 70 offices across the United States.

Kimley-Horn plans and designs roadways and bridges, airport runways and transportation systems; traffic signals, water/sewer systems, parking, transit systems, and more. They are civil, transportation, and systems engineers; urban and land planners; environmental specialists; landscape architects and urban designers; and computer/systems specialists.

And, while they are not contractors or constructors, they routinely provide construction-related services as part of their projects.

In addition to planning and design, services offered related to transportation infrastructure projects often include environmental studies and permitting, NEPA & CEQA compliance, natural resource assessments and air and noise assessments and mitigation.

Kimley-Horn's growth is reflected in its steady rise on Engineering News-Record's list of top design firms in the nation. The firm first appeared on the list in 1981, when it ranked 421st; in 2012, Kimley-Horn ranked 41st.

In the 2012 list, Kimley-Horn also



Kimley-Horn  
and Associates, Inc.

ranked 4th in general building-multi unit residential, 2nd in general building-retail, 8th in airports, 11th in highways, 14th in water treatment and desalination, 16th in transportation, 17th in mass transit and rail, and 27th in water supply.

Kimley-Horn is represented in the Gateway Coalition by Senior Project Manager Robert Blume.

## • Santa Clarita Valley Latino Chamber of Commerce

The SCVLCC is a non-profit business organization established to promote the success and prosperity of Latino business owners and professionals and to contribute to the well-being of the community.

The Chamber offers networking opportunities to its members through regularly scheduled meetings and events. This past May, the organization sponsored the city's Cinco de Mayo Festival, with 30 exhibitors, attracting 5,000 attendees.

The SCVLCC partners with the California Small Business Development



**SCV Latino  
Chamber of Commerce**

Center to offer a wide range of services and seminars to assist entrepreneurs in creating and expanding their business ventures.

The organization is headed by CEO Bill Miranda, President of Bill Miranda Leadership Center. He is a motivational speaker, business trainer & counselor, and a civic icon throughout California.

As a former counselor with the Small Business Development Center, he has guided hundreds of businesses to start, grow, and succeed. Miranda's background as a corporate trainer and program designer has involved him in projects around the globe, including Europe, Asia and Australia.

Recently, Miranda authored "Profiles in Latino Courage," a book intended to inspire, educate, motivate, and cultivate the next generation of Latino leaders.



**Los Angeles County Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich and Santa Clarita Councilwoman Marsha McLean celebrated the ground-breaking of the new Metrolink station that will serve the Bob Hope Airport.** *Photo by Victor Lindenheim.*

## Hope

**Continued from page 6**

egy will also improve rail connectivity with the airport.

Metro has been coordinating with the Burbank-Glendale-Pasadena Airport Authority during the development of both the RITC and the new Bob Hope Airport-Hollywood Way Metrolink Station. Metro has allocated \$3.7 million of Measure R funds toward development of this station. Completion and opening of the new station is expected by 2015.

For more information about the project, contact Victor J. Gill, Director of Public Affairs and Communications-Bob Hope Airport at 818.840.8840.



# District 7 Director Retires

**M**ike Miles bid an emotional farewell to his team at Caltrans this summer, retiring from his position as District 7 Director effective July 31.

"After 25 years of service to the best transportation organization in the state, I am proud to say that I work for Caltrans. The qualified staff here has the keen knowledge to get the job done and get it done right," Miles said in a memo to the District 7 team.

"I've experienced the highs and the lows. I'm thrilled that we made it safer for all trucks statewide at night by installing safety working lights (that was started here), and I'm sad that I had to personally report to five different families the loss of their loved ones on the job," Miles wrote. "I've seen the Department from several angles — from Permits to Planning, from Project Management to Maintenance, from Headquarters leadership to District Directorship — and I can unequivocally say that you guys are the best."

Miles added that he would miss the work, but most of all would miss those with whom he worked side by side.



**Mike Miles**

"You're a premier group. Keep up the good work. Continue to be the professional, cutting edge organization we are no matter what changes occur."

As Director of the Caltrans District 7 (Los Angeles and Ventura counties) since February 2010, Miles oversaw all divisions including administration, construction, design, environmental, external affairs, maintenance, operations, planning, project management and right-of-way.

Previously, he served as Deputy Director of Maintenance and Operations in Sacramento, and was responsible for the division's day-to-day internal operations.

Miles worked for Caltrans since 1989. His extensive and innovative work with local, regional, and state-level organizations drew high praise while serving in these heavily urbanized environments.

Prior to joining Caltrans, Miles worked in private industry as both a field and project engineer.

During his career, Mr. Miles has spearheaded worker safety initiatives and led the way to improved relations with other government organizations and collective bargaining representatives.

Victor Lindenhein, Executive Director of the Golden State Gateway Coalition, said Miles has been a good friend to the Coalition and the I-5 North Los Angeles County Improvement Project.

"We've enjoyed a terrific working relationship with Mike during his three years as District 7 Director," Lindenhein said. "We're going to miss him, but we also wish him the best in his retirement from Caltrans."

## Metro

Continued from page 9

• **Mike Bonin** was recently elected to Los Angeles City Council, representing L.A.'s 11th District. Previously, Bonin served as chief deputy to former Councilmember Bill Rosendahl. In that role, he was an alternate member on the board of the Exposition Metro Line Construction Authority and Co-Chair of the North Runway Safety Advisory Committee. He is co-founder and program director of Camp Courage, a training program for LGBT community organizers.

"I'm excited to work with Mayor Garcetti to improve

and increase bus and rail service in Los Angeles to cut congestion and make commutes faster," Bonin said. "We on the Westside are especially eager to get moving with real solutions that give us back the family time and dollars we lose while we are stuck in traffic and gridlock."

• **"Jackie" Dupont-Walker** is founding president of Ward Economic Development Corp., a faith-based community development organization, and is chair of the USC Master Plan Advisory Committee. She is involved in numerous other civic organizations and serves as the AME Church International Social Action Officer.

"I am looking forward to collaborating with Mayor Garcetti to create an L.A. transportation system that will help bring our city's diverse neighborhoods closer together in every way," Dupont-Walker said. "A world-class system should be accessible to every L.A. neighborhood, and new transportation hubs and corridors are opportunities to spark much-needed job creation and neighborhood revitalization by spurring local economies."

• **Paul Krekorian** is a member of the L.A. City Council, representing the 2nd District. Krekorian previously served in the Assembly representing the 43rd District and was Assistant Majority Leader and

chair of the Select Committee on Renewable Energy.

"I look forward to working with Mayor Garcetti, my MTA colleagues, and all stakeholders to tackle Southern California's most pressing transportation issues," said Krekorian. "Through innovation and efficiency, we need to get more for our transportation dollars and accelerate MTA's work toward enhanced mobility throughout the entire region. This is a critical moment in our pursuit of a seamless public transportation system that cost-effectively reduces congestion in the San Fernando Valley and all of Los Angeles, and I'm honored that the Mayor has entrusted me with this responsibility."

From the **Chairman**

# Phase 1: Progress Continues

**By Tom DiPrima**

*Chairman,*

*Golden State Gateway Coalition*

I am pleased to report that much progress has been made since the groundbreaking in May of last year.

As you know, Caltrans has designed and contracted with a California roadway builder to construct new truck lanes over the Newhall Pass, providing funding, oversight and standards to be met. Metro has agreed to provide some funding from sales tax revenue (Measure R and Proposition C), where needed.

We now have a beneficial project that is approaching the halfway mark,



**Tom  
DiPrima**

with anticipated completion in late 2014. It is not insignificant to note that several thousand jobs have already been created by this project.

Both agencies have now turned their attention to the question of how and when the next phase of the project — carpool lanes — gets funded, designed, built, operated and maintained.

The case for doing it through an innovative public-private partnership is being developed and documented and will soon be presented to the Metro Board and the California Transportation Commission for review.

Public input will be sought later this year.

With construction of the truck lanes over the Newhall Pass approaching the halfway point, the Gateway Coalition maintains its role as a partner in the process.

We will continue to educate stakeholders on the benefits of the project

and advocate for completing the project as soon as possible.

Your support for the Coalition and the I-5 project has gotten us to this point. We ask for your ongoing support as we continue our work to see the entire project completed.

**'We will continue to educate stakeholders on the benefits of the project and advocate for completing the project as soon as possible.'**

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**On the Web:** [www.goldenstategateway.org](http://www.goldenstategateway.org)

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