



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATE ROUTE 140 BRADLEY OVERPASS PROJECT COMPLETE

MERCED – Thousands of local motorists will experience fewer traffic delays on State Route 140 in Merced thanks to the completion of a \$41 million project that doubled the number of lanes along a mile-long section of the highway in the eastern edge of the city and completely rebuilt the aging Bradley Overpass.

“Caltrans is pleased to have worked with our local partners in building this sustainable project that will make the commute safer and easier in Merced,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. “Due to this investment, the city and county are better prepared to handle future growth.”

To ease traffic congestion, Caltrans transformed SR-140 from a two-lane highway to a four-lane highway with a continuous left-turn lane in the median between Parsons Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue. Currently, the average daily traffic on this section of the highway can surpass more than 12,000 vehicles daily and is expected to increase to more than 17,000 by 2027.

Caltrans also widened the Bradley Overpass (built in 1931) from two lanes to four lanes to further reduce congestion. The rebuilt overpass is higher and longer than the original structure, making it safer for motorists.

Other prominent features of the project include a new bicycle and pedestrian path on the overpass; new traffic signals along SR-140 at the intersections with Kelly Avenue, Parsons Avenue and Santa Fe Avenue; and realignment of portions of Baker Drive and Santa Fe Avenue to alleviate traffic congestion on local streets.

Caltrans and the Merced County Association of Governments (MCAG) were partners on the project.

“This project is a demonstration of what can be done through collaboration and community engagement,” stated Marjie Kirn, MCAG Executive Director. “Not only do we have a beautiful new entrance to the city, but a much safer route for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists alike. It was a tremendous partnership, and we appreciate Caltrans’ commitment to working with the community to make it happen.”

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