



# Improving the I-5 Freeway in South Orange County



### ***Keeping South OC Moving by Working Together***

This past year, OCTA, Caltrans District 12 and the cities of Mission Viejo, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills and Laguna Niguel have continued working together to deliver the I-5 Freeway Widening Project from SR-73 to El Toro Road, one of our region's largest freeway improvement projects. Approved by nearly 70% of Orange County voters, this \$580 million project spans 6.5 miles and is being constructed in three segments. Today, the overall project is more than 1/3 finished, with Segment 1 from SR-73 to Oso Parkway and Segment 2 from Oso Parkway to Alicia Parkway each 50% complete.

### ***The Road Ahead***

As we head into 2022, the I-5 Construction Team will moving be forward on the following improvements:

- Paving new general-purpose lanes from Avery Parkway to Alicia Parkway
- Reconstructing interchanges at Avery Parkway and La Paz Road
- Widening bridges at Oso Creek, Aliso Creek, Los Alisos Boulevard and El Toro Road
- Extending the second carpool lane from Alicia Parkway to El Toro Road
- Constructing new auxiliary lanes at seven key locations
- Adding striping, signage and signals, as well as other operational improvements

When completed, this set of improvements will increase freeway capacity and enhance ramp, roadway and interchange operations from Mission Viejo in the south to Laguna Woods on the north.

### ***Staying Connected, Navigate Construction, Minimize Delay***

Given the scope and magnitude, this is a multiyear project. So, staying informed and driving smart will help you navigate construction and minimize delay in the meantime.

The I-5 Traffic Management Team recognizes that your time is valuable. Here are a few things they're doing to help keep motorists moving throughout construction.

- All pre-existing I-5 general-purpose lanes are opened during construction
- Street and signal lights are continuously monitored, optimized and synchronized
- No carpool or general-purpose lanes are closed or reduced during daytime/peak hours
- Ramp and lane closures occur almost exclusively between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Weekly Alerts can be emailed directly to motorists or can be accessed daily on the web
- Full freeway closures are strictly limited to overnight hours and advertised in advance
- Weekend ramp closures may only occur for pre-approved reasons
- The Traffic Management Plan was developed in partnership with local cities

# DRIVING TIPS

Also, here are 5 tips to help I-5 motorists drive smarter and keep moving forward.

1. Receive Weekly Construction Alerts by signing up at <https://bit.ly/3oGFNAO>
2. Stay safe and avoid delay and fines by always driving 55 MPH in the construction zone
3. Get major construction notices on your FB and Instagram feed @oci5southcounty
4. If driving after 10 p.m., avoid overnight ramp and lane closures by opting for detours
5. Contact the I-5 Team with specific questions

Lastly, as you close out 2021, and head into 2022, here's an interchange-by-interchange recap of what's happening and in store at various interchanges, beginning with Avery Parkway on the south and moving north to El Toro Road.

# Avery Parkway

- Avery Parkway remains open during construction
  - Reconstruction will double interchange capacity
  - Increasing from 5 to 10 lanes, including dedicated turn and thru lanes
- New bicycle lanes, sidewalks and signals
  - Stage 1 of bridge widening completed in early November 2021
  - Crews now working in the median on the center bridge span
  - Ramp and lane closures take place at night
  - Freeway lanes, ramps and street always opened during daytime and peak hours
  - Ramp closures may occur during overnight hours
  - Select 55-hour weekend closures are permitted to maximize safety and productivity



- Crown Valley interchange remains open during construction
- Ongoing access to shopping destinations, medical centers and residential areas
- Interchange will be reconstructed and realigned to accommodate new freeway lanes
- Ramps lanes will feature dedicated right and left turn lanes
- Major retaining walls being constructed in northbound direction
- Retaining wall aesthetic will consist of slate and stacked stone texture
- I-5 underpass at Crown Valley has been widened and retaining walls constructed
- Auxiliary lanes between Oso Parkway and Crown Valley will be constructed
- Ramp closures may occur between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

## Crown Valley Parkway

## Oso Parkway

- Oso Parkway interchange remains open during construction
- Ongoing access to golf courses, residential areas and other destinations
- Interchange will be reconstructed and realigned to accommodate new freeway lanes
- Oso Creek bridge is being widened in both northbound and southbound direction
- New auxiliary lanes will be constructed from Oso Parkway
- On-site batch plant located in northbound off-ramp gore area
- Ramp closures may occur between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

## La Paz Road

- La Paz Road is opened throughout construction
  - Ongoing access to local schools and shops as well as residential neighborhoods
  - Interchange is being realigned and reconstructed
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- On and off-ramp will be improved, including a newly designed NB off-ramp
  - Vertical clearance on La Paz Road will be increased
  - New bicycle lanes and sidewalks will be added to La Paz Road
  - Pre-existing columns will be removed, eliminating barrier and facilitating lane changes
  - Ramp closures may occur between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
  - 55-hour, weekend closures may occur on select occasions to maximize safety and productivity

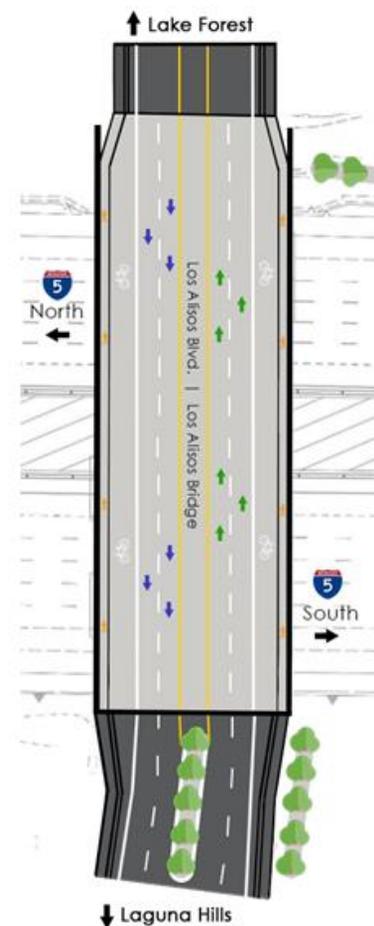


## Alicia Parkway

- Alicia Parkway interchange remains open throughout construction
  - Ongoing access to shopping, commercial and residential destinations
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- Interchange is being realigned and reconstructed
  - New ramp lanes will feature dedicated turn lanes
  - I-5 Freeway underpass will be widened at Alicia Parkway
  - Ramp closures may occur between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

## Los Alisos Boulevard

- Los Alisos Bridge remains open throughout construction
- Bridge will be widened to west and east
- New standardized bicycle lanes and sidewalks
- Center median will be replaced in kind
- New bridge width will allow cities to reconfigure should doing so be deemed necessary



## El Toro Road

- El Toro Road interchange remains open throughout construction
- Ongoing access to local retail, civic and residential destinations
- I-5 bridge over El Toro Road will be widened on northbound and southbound sides
- Interchange closures may occur between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- 55-hour, weekend interchange closures may occur to maximize safety on select occasions



# Stay CONNECTED

The I-5 Freeway Project Team is here to serve you  
**online, via email, by phone or in virtual meetings.**

Follow the project as it moves forward.

For more info, stay connected on the following platforms:



949-614-0202 | [octa.net/i5southcounty](http://octa.net/i5southcounty) | [@OCi5SouthCounty](https://www.facebook.com/OCi5SouthCounty) | [i5southcounty@octa.net](mailto:i5southcounty@octa.net)