



# NEWS

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## **Steer Clear of DARMageddon**

***I-805 Closed on Aug. 18-19***

***Motorists are asked to Steer Clear***

SAN DIEGO – Key transportation and local city representatives gathered today in Chula Vista to announce a Steer Clear campaign encouraging motorists to avoid one of the region’s busiest freeways during a shut down next month for construction.

Interstate 805 (I-805) will be closed between State Route 54 and State Route 905 in both directions on Sunday, Aug. 18 from 3 p.m. through 5 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 19, according to Caltrans.

The closure is needed to demolish and remove the East Palomar Street Bridge over I-805 to make way for a Direct Access Ramp, also known as a DAR. When completed in winter 2014, the DAR will offer a convenient way for carpoolers and transit to enter the Express Lanes currently under construction on I-805 and access the future East Palomar Street Transit Station and Park & Ride.

“Given the nature of the work, we are affectionately calling this freeway closure DARMageddon,” said Caltrans District 11 Director Laurie Berman. “The public should anticipate traffic congestion and potentially lengthy delays during the closure, which is why we are urging motorists to steer clear of I-805 in South County completely during the bridge demolition.”

Caltrans announced the start of an extensive radio, television and print advertising campaign, and public outreach effort to encourage motorists to steer clear of I-805 during the closure.

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Joining Berman were Chula Vista Deputy Mayor Pamela Bensoussan, National City Mayor Ron Morrison, and Rafael Solorzano Montenegro, Coordinator of Economic Promotion and Tourism for the Secretary of Economic Development with the City of Tijuana. Also in attendance were Chula Vista Councilmember Mary Salas, Chula Vista Fire Chief Dave Hanneman and Chula Vista Police Chief David Bejarano.

“The City of Chula Vista has been working in close collaboration with Caltrans and SANDAG over a number of years to bring the East Palomar Street Direct Access Ramp, Transit Station and Park & Ride project to fruition,” said Bensoussan. “We are confident the bridge demolition will go smoothly and we will be on-site to monitor progress throughout.”

Officials unveiled a clock to count down the days, hours, minutes and seconds to the closure of I-805. The countdown clock can be viewed at [KeepSanDiegoMoving.com](http://KeepSanDiegoMoving.com) and [www.dot.ca.gov/dist11](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist11).

Drivers will be detoured to South Bay Expressway (SR 125) and Interstate 5 (I-5) via state routes 54 and 905 during the shutdown of I-805. As an alternate route during the 14-hour closure of I-805, South Bay Expressway (SR 125) will be toll-free to motorists traveling northbound and southbound.

Caltrans strongly encouraged motorists to get off I-805 before the detours to help prevent congestion. Alternate routes to I-5 and SR 125 include State Route 52 and State Route 56.

Detour routes and other construction information can be found at [KeepSanDiegoMoving.com](http://KeepSanDiegoMoving.com) or by calling the I-805 Construction Hotline at [\(888\) 941-5005](tel:8889415005).

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