

SR 76 Middle Project Construction Update #2

August 2010

Building Bridges and Blasting Bedrock as we Build a Better State Route 76

Crews are well into construction on the State Route 76 (SR 76) Middle Project between Melrose Drive and South Mission Road. Construction crews are working hard building bridges and blasting bedrock. This newsletter highlights the recent construction accomplishments and the activities scheduled to take place this summer. The project is on schedule and on budget for a September 2012 completion.

Building Temporary Bridges

During a three-night closure of SR 76 in May, crews built the first temporary bridge. This temporary bridge allows even the largest construction equipment to cross over the highway without affecting your commute.

Later this summer, crews will build a second temporary bridge over SR 76 near Olive Hill Road. Like the first temporary bridge, this bridge also will allow access to various types of construction activities during the day with fewer affects to you.

Bedrock Blasting

Just west of North River Road, crews blasted through two areas of rock that were too hard to break with construction equipment. To ensure the safety of everyone, Caltrans closed SR 76 for approximately 15 minutes during these blasts. For safety purposes, SR 76 always will be closed when blasting occurs. Four more blasting operations are expected in the upcoming weeks.

Crews also are performing "cut-and-fill" work. This work transfers fill dirt from the hill on the north side of SR 76 to the south side of SR 76 to raise the grade level of the road approximately 15 feet. This grade level change is needed to build future westbound lanes.

We thank you for your patience with temporary closures and detours during these activities. Our goal is to minimize effects to you while we make these significant improvements to the SR 76. Please read on to learn more about our progress.



Photo of recent bedrock blasting that took place on North River Road.

New San Luis Rey River Bridge Will Be One of the Largest in North County

Once completed in 2012, the new San Luis Rey River bridge will run parallel to the existing bridge. The existing bridge will be dedicated to westbound traffic, while the new bridge at 1,700 feet long will add two eastbound lanes to SR 76. Currently one of the largest bridges in construction in north San Diego County, this new bridge will be constructed with:

- ▶ 3 million pounds of steel
- ▶ 18 support columns, anchored to bedrock
- ▶ 8,600 cubic yards of concrete

Turn the page to meet the on-site resident engineer who is managing all aspects of this construction project.



Photo of rebar support columns that will be up to 10 feet in diameter for the new bridge over the San Luis Rey River. Motorists will begin to see the columns from the highway this summer.

Meet Ed FitzGibbon: Caltrans Resident Engineer and Diehard New York Giants Fan



Ed FitzGibbon, SR 76 Middle Project Resident Engineer oversees construction activities.

Ed FitzGibbon, Senior Resident Engineer for the SR 76 Middle Project, is in charge of managing construction of large-scale highway projects.

How long have you worked at Caltrans? I've worked for Caltrans for 25 years in a variety of roles and capacities.

What is your role on the SR 76 Project? On a daily basis, I direct construction work, supervise, and approve the contractors and Caltrans' employees work product. I also ensure all field work meets Caltrans' Standard Plans and Specifications, as well as manage the on-site office, and the construction schedule and budget.

What current and past Caltrans projects have you worked on? I was the Resident Engineer on the State Route 52 (SR 52) and State Route 56 (SR 56) projects. Additionally, I was the Construction Engineer on the Interstate 15 Managed Lanes project.

What has been your most significant professional accomplishment? I was part of the team that won the American Society of Engineers' Project of the Year for the SR 56 Project.

Where did you obtain your professional training? I am a graduate of Rutgers University and a licensed Civil Engineer.

Where do you reside in San Diego? I've been a resident of North County for the past 25 years.

Besides managing large-scale highway construction projects, what do you enjoy doing? On weekends, I take my family camping around Southern California. Also, I'm a diehard New York Giants fan...go Giants!

Draft Environmental Impact Report and Public Hearing Set for This Summer

The SR 76 East Project is scheduled to release its Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Study (EIR/EIS) for a 60-day public review period in September. This environmental analysis is required by state and federal laws so that public input is received before important project decisions are made.

Printed copies of the Draft EIR/EIS will be available at these two locations:

- ▶ Fallbrook Library, 113 South Main Ave. Fallbrook, CA 92028
- ▶ Caltrans Dist. 11 Office, 4050 Taylor St. San Diego, CA 92110-2737

To review the Draft EIR/EIS online or to request a copy, please visit:

www.keepsandiegomoving.com

In addition, a public hearing for the SR 76 East Project is tentatively set for:

Date: Thursday, September 16
Time: 5 to 8 p.m.
Location: Bonsall Community Center
 31505 Old River Rd.
 Bonsall, CA 92003



The SR 76 East Project begins at South Mission Road in Bonsall and ends at the I-15/SR 76 Interchange.



SR 76 project team prepares dynamite cables for bedrock blasting.

How is This Project Putting Californians to Work?

The SR 76 Middle Project employs over 130 people, including:

- 1) Roadway inspectors who maintain quality control, review safety issues, and ensure conformance to standards
- 2) Structure inspectors who manage the construction of the San Luis Rey Road bridge
- 3) Electricians, equipment operators, drillers, carpenters, steel workers and other crafts people managed by the Prime Contractor, Flatiron West Inc.

For more information about the SR 76 project, please visit:

www.keepsandiegomoving.com/SR76-intro.html

Question of the Quarter