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WHO

Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).

WHAT

Speed limits reduced along the Interstate 5 (I-5) construction zone from 65 miles per hour (mph) to 55 mph.

WHERE

The speed limit reduction will first take effect between Manchester Avenue in the City of Encinitas and Palomar Airport Road in the City of Carlsbad, in both the north and southbound directions.

WHEN

The speed limit reduction will be in effect on March 11 and will be in place until Build NCC completion in 2022.

WHY

The speed limit reduction within the highway work zone is to ensure the safety of the traveling public, and construction and maintenance professionals along I-5.



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Why is a speed limit reduction on Interstate 5 (I-5) necessary now?

While construction on I-5 has been underway on the San Elijo Lagoon Highway bridge near the Manchester Avenue interchange since early 2017, crews recently placed concrete barriers (or k-rail) along the median for eight consecutive miles in both the north and southbound directions, between Manchester Avenue in the City of Encinitas and Palomar Airport Road in the City of Carlsbad. This equipment was necessary for crews to begin work to widen the median in advance of the new HOV/Carpool lane they will be constructing. As a result, travel lane widths within the I-5 construction zone have been reduced and the inside shoulder has been removed.

Why should I slow down if I don't see anybody working?

There aren't always cones around a highway work zone. Physical hazards such as traffic shifts, or lane reductions at night, may be present. While worker safety is very important, drivers and passengers are actually at a greater risk of death as a result of an accident than highway workers, accounting for 85% of those killed in work zone crashes. In 2014, there were 6,525 work zone crashes on California highways.

Will the change in speed limits be clear to all motorists on I-5?

Advance notification signage will be placed in both the north and southbound directions as motorists enter and exit the construction zone. This signage will include portable changeable message signs advising motorists of reduced speeds ahead, as well as new "55 MPH Speed Limit" signs throughout the corridor. Additionally, electronic speed feedback signs will be placed at various locations along the I-5 construction zone to inform the public of their speed in relation to the reduced speed limit.

How long will the reduced speeds limits be in effect?

The reduced speed limit is anticipated to be in place through the end of construction on I-5. Construction on the new I-5 HOV/Carpool lanes between Manchester Avenue and Palomar Airport Road is expected to be complete by late 2021. Construction crews expect to begin work to continue the extension of the I-5 HOV/Carpool lanes between Palomar Airport Road in the City of Carlsbad and State Route 78 by spring 2020. At this point, the reduced speed limit on I-5 will be extended north from Palomar Airport Road to State Route 78. This stretch of construction is also expected to be complete by late 2022.

Who will be enforcing the new speeds limits, and what happens if I get a ticket?

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) will be enforcing the new, posted speed limit and motorists should be aware that penalties will be increased for violations in constructions zones. Drivers can easily receive citations of over \$1,000 for speeding, driving aggressively, texting, or otherwise taking part in distracted driving through a work zone, where as a result of state law, fines are doubled. The Build NCC team has been working closely with CHP to ensure motorists are driving safely within construction zones and will be made aware of the speed reduction.

About Build NCC

Build NCC is a collaborative effort between the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), Caltrans, and the United States Department of Transportation. The first phase of construction is in the cities of Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Carlsbad as part of the North Coast Corridor Program. Build NCC includes extending the existing carpool lane on I-5 in each direction between Manchester Avenue and State Route 78, double tracking the rail line and replacing the highway and rail bridges at the San Elijo Lagoon, restoring the San Elijo Lagoon, and constructing nearly seven miles of new bike and pedestrian trails. Construction on Build NCC began in early 2017 and will be complete by 2022.