



Modernization of Route 76 celebrated

More than 100 transportation officials and others gathered Tuesday morning to commemorate the completion of the Route 76 straitening and widening project which now connects Interstate 5 and 15



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More than 100 state and federal transportation officials and local dignitaries gathered Tuesday to commemorate the completion of a decades-long project to widen and reconfigure State Route 76 into a modern, four-lane highway.

The finished project means motorists now have a relatively straight shot between Interstate 5 in northern [Oceanside](#) and Interstate 15 in [Fallbrook](#), complete with concrete barriers that make the drive safer in both directions.

“Today we celebrate the end of a journey almost two decades in the making,” California Department of Transportation District 11 Director Laurie Berman said at the Tuesday morning dedication ceremony, held north of the 76 at Pala Road.

“The birth of a better roadway is always something to celebrate, especially when that roadway is a primary artery connecting so many communities in this vibrant North County section of the San Diego region,” she said.



Along state Route 76, just west of Interstate 15, Fallbrook High School's Madrigals Advanced Vocal Ensemble perform at the ceremony marking the completion of the widening of the highway. (Charlie Neuman)

First built in the 1930s, the widening of state Route 76 began in the 1990s with the highway being expanded through much of Oceanside. In 2012 the middle phase of the project was completed and over the past three years the final five-mile segment from South Mission Road to Interstate 15 has been built.

County Supervisor Ron Roberts — chairman of the San Diego Association of Governments, the region's long-term transportation planning agency — said state Route 76 has been on SANDAG's "to do list" for many years.

"Today we're delivering on a promise to the people of this entire community," Roberts said. "The lives of the people who live here, who work here or who travel through here .. just got a little bit better."

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