



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Palm Drive/Gene Autry Trail and Indian Canyon Drive Interchanges to be Dedicated March 9

DESERT HOT SPRINGS – Visitors and local motorists will soon see major traffic relief with the completion of two more interchanges along Interstate 10’s Coachella Valley corridor.

A ceremony marking the completion of the Palm Drive/Gene Autry Trail and Indian Canyon Drive interchanges will be held at 9 a.m. March 9 at 20th Avenue, just east of Indian Canyon Drive (north of Interstate 10) in Desert Hot Springs.

“The coordinated work by our agencies has now delivered three brand-new interchanges,” said Supervisor John J. Benoit, chair of the Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) and the Riverside County Transportation Commission. “Clearly, we have put available stimulus funds and local taxpayer transportation dollars to their best use in making significant improvements to our freeway infrastructure.”

“For twenty years, our community has faced ever-increasing congestion at the freeway, never more so than during the last two year fix,” said Desert Hot Springs Mayor Yvonne Parks. “Completing these two interchange projects will allow for the free flow of commerce and tourism and convenience for our residents.”

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“The completion of these two important interchange improvement projects at the gateway to Palm Springs is incredibly exciting for our residents and visitors who will now experience far less congestion and easier access to our city from Interstate 10,” said Palm Springs Mayor Steve Pougnet. “These improved freeway interchanges are transformational for Palm Springs and the entire Coachella Valley and I want to thank CVAG, the Riverside County Transportation Commission, CalTrans, and the City of Palm Springs Public Works Department for their tremendous efforts in helping this much needed community project come to fruition.”

Work on the Palm Drive/Gene Autry Trail interchange began in March 2010. The \$17 million project realigned ramps and replaced the original two-lane overcrossing with a six-lane overcrossing and bike lanes on each side, in combination with widening Gene Autry Trail Bridge over the Union Pacific Railroad tracks. This project received \$10.4 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds. Micro Place and Salvia Roads were also realigned as part of this project.

Construction on the Indian Canyon interchange began in August 2010. The \$16.5 million project, of which \$5.5 million were ARRA funds, replaced the original overcrossing with a six-lane overcrossing, including bike lanes on each side. The project also widened portions of 20th Avenue and Garnet Avenue, improving traffic signals, storm drainage and freeway vertical clearance.

The Bob Hope/Ramon Road interchange was opened in September 2011. Date Palm Drive began construction in May 2011 and is expected to be completed by early 2013.

Supervisor Benoit will be joined by local officials, state legislators, representatives from the California Department of Transportation, CVAG and other dignitaries.

Refreshments will be provided. For more information on the ceremony, please call Dennis Green of the Interstate 10 Coachella Valley Corridor Improvement Projects Taskforce at 909-800-0451.

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Supervisor John J. Benoit represents the Fourth District on the Riverside County Board of Supervisors. Stretching from the Palm Springs area south to the Salton Sea and east to the Colorado River, it is the largest geographical district in the county.

Please note: Benoit's regular office hours are Monday through Thursday, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.