



PRESS RELEASE

Today's Date: January 28, 2013

District: District 6 – Fresno

Contact: Jose Camarena

Phone: (559) 488-4067

State Route 46 Expressway Widening Projects in Kern County near Completion

Kern County, CA – The Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Kern Council of Governments (COG) announce the completion of the third Segment of the State Route (SR) 46 Expressway Widening Projects, stretching from the San Luis Obispo County Line to just west of Brown Material Road. All three segments are currently in operation and being well-used by commuters and travelers along this corridor that connects the southern San Joaquin Valley with the Central Coast.

The three widening projects, \$103 million worth, expanded nearly 28-miles of the conventional two-lane highway to a four-lane controlled access expressway with a divided median throughout the project limits. Existing intersections with local roads within the project limits were also upgraded to better accommodate commercial-sized transport traffic.

State Route 46 is a major east-west Coast Range crossing that connects State Route 1 along the Central Coast near Cambria and U.S Highway 101 in Paso Robles with State Route 99 at Famoso in the San Joaquin Valley. Built and improved during the 1920s and fully paved by 1930, State Route 46 was originally designated as U.S. Route 466 until 1964, and then became part of the California freeway expressway system.

The benefits of these capacity increasing projects include reduced congestion and travel times along with improved traffic operations and safety along this heavily traveled east/west route. Two additional projects, Segments 4A (scheduled for Construction in Spring 2016) & 4B, will extend the effort to widen the conventional 2-Lane Highway to a 4-Lane Expressway through Kern County.

Funding for the project included Interregional Improvement Program (IIP), Regional Improvement Program (RIP) and federal funding secured by former Congressman William Thomas.

###

**SLOW FOR THE
CONE ZONE**
CALTRANS®