



News Release

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District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: START OF UNION ROAD TEMPORARY CLOSURE ANTICIPATED TO BEGIN IN EARLY AUGUST DETOUR TO/FROM SR 156 WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

As announced in mid-June, Caltrans will be temporarily closing a short section of Union Road, between San Juan Hollister Road and State Route 156 (SR 156) in the City of Hollister, for approximately 8 weeks (or less). The closure start is now anticipated to begin in early August, weather permitting. Exact dates will be announced within one week of the closure, when the details are certain.

This closure is necessary to reconstruct the intersection of Union Road and SR 156, to align with the new SR 156 widening project, and to improve access to and from the highway. During the closure traffic will be required to detour via San Juan Hollister Road to access SR 156.

Following the anticipated reopening of Union Road in late summer, two exciting milestones will be met, as traffic on SR 156 will be shifted onto the new paving just south of the existing highway and a new roundabout will be in operation at Bixby Road.

To accommodate anticipated increased traffic via the detour, additional temporary traffic control devices will be installed at 4th Street and SR 156, and San Juan Hollister Rd and 4th Street/Business 156.

- To support safety and traffic efficiency at the intersection of San Juan Hollister Road and 4th Street/Business 156, temporary, portable traffic signals will be placed in each direction.
- To support detour traffic to and from the highway, a longer, dedicated right turn lane to 4th Street/Business 156 from eastbound SR 156 will be added, as well as an additional left turn lane from 4th Street/Business 156 to westbound SR 156.

To support the community, Caltrans and the Council of San Benito County Governments (SBCOG) created a series of detour and traffic control maps in English

and Spanish. The detour maps are available on the SBCOG's website:
<https://sanbenitocog.org/transportation-updates>

Temporary portable message signs advising commuters of the planned closure and detour will also be placed in advance of the intersection.

The temporary closure of Mitchell Road, just north of SR 156, will also take place after the Union Road reopening, to allow additional intersection improvements and repaving of the old highway into a frontage road. More information will be provided during the summer.

About the Project

The San Benito Route 156 Improvement Project will construct a four-lane expressway immediately south of the existing Hwy. 156 alignment. This 5.2-mile project will begin in San Juan Bautista at The Alameda and continue to just east of Hwy. 156 Business Route (4th St.) in Hollister. The SR 156 Improvement Project will reduce peak hour traffic congestion and save millions in vehicle operating and accident costs.

Updates for the San Benito Route 156 Improvement Project can be found on the Transportation Updates page of the Council of San Benito County Governments at:
<http://sanbenitocog.org/transportation-updates/>

The contractor for this project is Teichert Construction of Sacramento, CA. This project is expected to conclude in fall 2025.

**Our crews deserve to get home safely too.
Drive slowly and carefully in work zones.**

CHP Traffic Incident Information Page: <http://cad.chp.ca.gov>
Traveler information at: <https://quickmap.dot.ca.gov/>

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