

Possible traffic snarls ahead for 60 Freeway with lane/ramp closures on the weekends in Diamond Bar



A construction truck drives along the newly paved westbound 60 freeway Lemon Avenue on-ramp in City of Industry on Wednesday Feb. 7, 2018.. The new Lemon Avenue interchange is being constructed for \$22 million. Four weekend closures will be needed to complete the job. (Photo by Raul Romero Jr for the San Gabriel Valley Tribune/SCNG)

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PUBLISHED: February 7, 2018 at 5:06 pm | UPDATED: February 7, 2018 at 5:15 pm

Construction of a new 60 Freeway interchange at Lemon Avenue in Diamond Bar is triggering lengthy lane and ramp closures that will disrupt traffic during several weekends, the Alameda Corridor East Construction Authority announced Wednesday.

Although far from a “[carmageddon](#)” situation, as many as four planned weekend closures in the freeway’s eastern Los Angeles County section will slow traffic flow from the San Gabriel Valley, Inland Empire and Orange County. Drivers will be affected not just on the busy 60, but also on the 57, 71 and 210 freeways, officials said.





Cement engravings are pictured along the retaining wall of the 60 freeway Lemon Avenue westbound on ramp at the Caltrans construction site in Diamond Bar on Wednesday, February 7, 2018. (Photo by Raul Romero Jr, Contributing Photographer)

“Our message to motorists is, the 60 Freeway will not be closed, but we are reducing it by 40 percent by taking two lanes out of a total of five lanes,” said Paul Hubler, director of community and government relations for ACE, the builder of the project.

The first closure begins 10 p.m. Friday until 5 a.m. Monday, when two lanes of the westbound 60 Freeway between Brea Canyon Road and Fairway Drive will be closed, as will the Brea Canyon Road freeway on-ramp.

Two eastbound lanes will be closed during the same hours for three additional 55-hour weekend periods: Feb. 23-Feb. 26, March 2-March 5 and March 9-March 12. The eastbound Brea Canyon Road off-ramp will be closed.

Though ACE and Diamond Bar stress that the 60 Freeway will not be fully closed on any of the weekends, they are advising drivers to use alternate routes, such as the 57, 210, 10 and 91 freeways, to get around what amounts to a major reduction in traffic lanes.

“On those weekends, please, if you can, avoid the 60 Freeway,” Hubler said.

ACE and Caltrans will not close off lanes on Presidents’ Day weekend, Feb. 16-19, which also coincides with the start of Lunar New Year festivities, Hubler said. The areas immediately around the closure, including Diamond Bar, Rowland Heights and Hacienda Heights, have substantial Chinese-American populations.

Within the affected freeway sections during closure times, the carpool lanes will be open to general flow traffic, he said.

Caltrans has begun alerting drivers through message signs stationed on the 60, as well as nearby freeways in Orange and San Bernardino counties. ACE will place temporary signs along the freeways, he said.

Detour signs directing drivers around closed on-ramps will be posted in City of Industry and Diamond Bar local roads.

While touring the \$22.2 million project Wednesday, Caltrans engineers said the eastbound off-ramp and on-ramp on the west and east sides of Lemon Avenue have been cleared but not yet paved. New retaining walls were erected with etchings depicting the San Gabriel Mountains. On the south side, the walls say “Diamond Bar.”

The new Lemon Avenue westbound entrance is being constructed on the north side of the freeway, off Lemon Avenue within the City of Industry.

“What it will do is divert the truck traffic off Brea Canyon Road,” Diamond Bar Councilwoman Carol Herrera said. “They can get off on Lemon Avenue.”

Trucks going to and from warehouses in Industry use Brea Canyon Road, traveling through Diamond Bar, she said. Some get lost and drive the back streets of Diamond Bar, she said. “Now this will be a shortcut for them.”

The cities of Diamond Bar and Industry **have been working on the project since 2004.** They signed an agreement with Caltrans in 2011. Construction began in September 2016 and completion is scheduled for this summer, Ricky Choi, ACE spokesman, said. The Federal Highway Administration provided \$7.5 million; Diamond Bar added \$1.8 million from Metro's call for projects allocation to the city; City of Industry kicked in \$7.6 million and \$5.3 million comes from Measure M, the one-half cent sales tax passed in November 2016 for transportation improvements.

"This will be the first Measure M project to complete construction in Los Angeles County," Hubler said.

Updates can be found on Twitter @ACESGV and @Lemonaveramps. For complaints or more information, call the project hotline: 1-888-ACE-1426.

The 60 freeway closures will take place as follows:

- 10 p.m. Friday to 5 a.m. Monday: Two westbound lanes between Brea Canyon Road and Fairway Drive; Westbound Brea Canyon Road will be closed.
- 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23 to 5 a.m. Monday, Feb. 26: Two eastbound lanes between Fairway Drive and Brea Canyon Road; Brea Canyon Road eastbound on-ramp from northbound Fairway Drive will be closed.
- 10 p.m. Friday, March 2 to 5 a.m. Monday, March 5: Two eastbound lanes between Fairway Drive and Brea Canyon Road; Brea Canyon Road eastbound off-ramp closed.
- (tentative, if needed) 10 p.m. Friday, March 9 to 5 a.m. Monday: Two eastbound lanes between Fairway Drive and Brea Canyon Road; Brea Canyon Road eastbound off-ramp closed.