



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS COMPLETES NEW LANES ON U.S. ROUTE 395 IN INYO COUNTY

Bishop – On September 9 Caltrans announced the completion of the \$60.6 million Manzanar/Independence project, which constructed 11 miles of new lanes on U.S. Route 395 in Inyo County. The project received \$47 million from Proposition 1B, a transportation bond approved by voters in 2006.

The project widened U.S. 395 between Independence and Manzanar, converting the route from a two-lane conventional highway to a four-lane expressway. U.S. 395 is the Eastern Sierra's major transportation artery and serves as the "Main Street" of many communities in the region.

"This project is a good example of how bond funding is paying for transportation projects that are having a positive impact in rural areas," said Caltrans Director Cindy McKim. "The new highway will improve safety for the traveling public, expedite goods movement, and enhance mobility for tourists."

With the completion of the Manzanar/Independence project there remains only one 12.6 mile section of U.S 395 in Inyo County to be upgraded - the Olancho/Cartago Four-Lane Project. It is the final step (20 projects, beginning in 1955) in widening all 130 miles of U.S. 395 in the county to a four-lane expressway.

To date, nearly \$6 billion in Proposition 1B funding has been allocated by the California Transportation Commission and Caltrans.

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