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Contact: Margeaux Esler

Office: 916-448-5802

Mobile: 916-402-0038

Making Progress . . . Breaking the I-80 Bottleneck Phase 2 of the I-80 Expansion in Roseville Breaks Ground

Project to help save travelers more than \$3 million annually in reduced fuel costs

SACRAMENTO, CA – Transportation advocates as well as local and state community leaders joined together today to announce the groundbreaking of Phase 2 of construction aimed to help alleviate the “Roseville Bottleneck”. Phase 1, completed three months early in August 2007, dramatically reduced congestion, easing eastbound traffic at the Placer/Sacramento County Line. Phase 2 of the project will add eastbound and westbound carpool and auxiliary lanes from the Placer County line to Eureka road along with improvements at the Auburn/Riverside Blvd., Douglas Blvd., and Atlantic/Eureka Rd., interchanges. These improvements help get 1,327 vehicles off the roadway every year; which amounts to over 822,742 gallons of gasoline saved (worth more than \$3 million), and a 7,247 metric ton reduction in carbon dioxide emissions annually.

“The Interstate-80 expansion project is one of the region’s most critical transportation improvement priorities, and breaking ground for Phase 2 is an exciting step forward.” Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA) Chair Jim Holmes said. “Continued improvements to I-80 as well as construction of the Lincoln Bypass and I-80 Sierra College interchange illustrate the tremendous accomplishments made possible by a team that includes federal, state and local officials.”

The Bottleneck occurs on Interstate 80 between the Sacramento/Placer County border and SR 65, narrowing from five lanes to three lanes in both directions. Interstate 80 is a critical economic artery not only for the Sacramento region, but also the State and the nation, as the interstate is the only all-weather crossing of the Sierras for 1000 miles. Local residents and businesses, as well as recreational travelers, benefit from the enhanced traffic flow that results this congestion relief. Moreover, as a primary freight route, the Interstate 80 improvements also reduce congestion-related, economic losses that can occur due to delays transporting goods to critical access points such as the Sacramento International and Mather Airports and the West Coast ports of entry at San Francisco, Oakland, Stockton and Sacramento.

“Thanks to a great team effort, over \$130 million has come to Placer County to help fund the Lincoln Bypass and parts of the Bottleneck project”, says California Transportation Commissioner (CTC) Jim Earp. “That’s more than any other county in Northern California outside the Bay Area. But even with all of these investments, they don’t allow us to keep pace with our needs. That threatens our future. Once these current projects are completed, there is no money coming from outside Placer County for decades.”

The current slump in the housing market has brought more bidders to construction projects, which resulted in over \$32 million dollars in savings from the original estimate of \$ 64.782 million for completion of Phase 2. Construction on Phase 2 is expected to be combined with Phase 3A as it begins next year, with Phase 2 completed in 2010 and Phase 3 completed in 2011. Phases 1 and 2 of the project cover approximately 2.9 miles or 57% of the total 5.1 mile project length.

PCTPA represents all jurisdictions of Placer County and makes certain that Sacramento area commuters can get where they want to go safely and efficiently. PCTPA proactively plans for Placer County’s transportation needs decades into the future through roads, rail, transit, airports, bicycle and pedestrian pathways. For more information contact PCTPA at 530-823-4030 or visit www.pctpa.org.