



News Release

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District: 05 – Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties
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Caltrans Breaks Ground on Project to Improve Highway 156 in San Benito County

SAN BENITO COUNTY – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) announced today it is constructing a new four-lane expressway adjacent to the current alignment of Highway 156 between San Juan Bautista and Hollister in San Benito County. The \$127.9 million project includes more than \$90 million in federal funding and \$2.5 million in funding from Senate Bill (SB) 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017.

“Route 156 is a key east-west link for the Central Coast, the Bay Area, and the Central Valley, and a route vital to the movement of goods and freight for all of California and beyond,” said Caltrans District 5 Director Tim Gubbins. “Through SB 1, we are making critical investments in transportation throughout the state – creating safer, smoother roadways and keeping California’s economy moving.”

The State Route 156 Improvement Project will construct five new miles of four-lane, at-grade expressway from The Alameda in San Juan Bautista to Business Route 156 near Hollister. The project is expected to save \$34.6 million on collision and vehicle operating costs over 20 years and to reduce traffic congestion delay by 1,900 hours daily and 694,000 hours annually.

Caltrans held a groundbreaking ceremony today in Hollister with stakeholders and local elected officials to commemorate this project, on which construction officially began in August.

SB 1 provides \$5 billion in transportation in annual funding shared equally between the state and local agencies. Road projects progress through construction phases more quickly based on the availability of SB 1 funds. For more information about transportation projects funded by SB 1, visit RebuildingCA.ca.gov.

Caltrans reminds motorists to move over and slow down when driving through highway work zones. It’s the law!

For traffic updates on Hwy 156 and other state highways in San Benito County, travelers may contact Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs at 805-549-3318 or can visit the District 5 website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5>

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