

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OC Public Works and Supervisor Todd Spitzer Discuss Upcoming Improvements for Bridges and Santiago Canyon Road with Unincorporated Canyon Residents

Locations and concepts for the replacement of canyon area bridges and updates on Santiago Canyon Road safety initiatives were presented to gather community input

OC Public Works (OCPW) representatives presented locations and initial concepts for the replacement of four canyon bridges and provided updates on Santiago Canyon Road to a group of approximately 50 residents at this month's Inter-Canyon League meeting on September 5th. The bridge projects are designed to enhance safety and access by bringing the structures up to current design standards, while a number of improvements along Santiago Canyon Road are proposed to increase safety for drivers and cyclists.

The projects are in the early design or environmental clearance phases and OCPW is reaching out to the canyon community well in advance to answer questions and collect resident input on design elements.

"These efforts are part of the County's overall mission to keep our communities safe," said Todd Spitzer, Third District Supervisor. "Our residents depend on these canyon bridges and Santiago Canyon Road as part of their daily lives and the time has come to advance these critical safety improvements."

The bridges planned for replacement were built in the 1930s and 1940s, with three located in Silverado Canyon and one in Modjeska Canyon. The bridge projects include increasing the weight limits to meet current bridge standards and also possibly adding space for pedestrians, cyclists or equestrian users on these bridges, pending engineering analysis at each location and input from local residents.

The bridge locations include:

- Silverado Canyon Road: West of the Silverado Community Center
- Silverado Canyon Road: Ladd Canyon Bridge near Ladd Canyon Road
- Silverado Canyon Road: Midway between OC Fire Authority Station 14 and Belha Way
- Modjeska Canyon Road: Between Markuson Road and Shadowland Circle

Project crews may at the four bridge locations as early as this month to perform initial geotechnical analyses, which includes using a vehicle-mounted drill up to 8-inches in diameter to bore approximately 50-feet below the ground surface to analysis soil conditions. Environmental analysis and design is expected to occur in 2018 and then, following approval from Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration, construction could occur in late 2019 at the earliest.

Along Santiago Canyon Road, OCPW is planning a number of safety improvements that will be implemented in phases starting next year, however, OCPW recently implemented initial safety measures to encourage safe driver behaviors, including installing permanent speed feedback signs to alert drivers of their speed and positioning two portable electronic message boards that encourage drivers to travel at safe speeds. Santiago Canyon Road is heavily traveled by both canyon residents and commuters and cyclists living in adjacent communities.

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In Spring 2018, crews will perform a pavement rehabilitation maintenance project along certain sections of Santiago Canyon Road between Highway 241 and Live Oak Canyon Road. The project will include grinding the roadway and installing a new surface, which will require temporary closures of one lane to accommodate the work. Traffic control safety measures will be used to ensure vehicles can continue using Santiago Canyon Road during construction, though drivers should be aware that there will be delays and using alternative routes is encouraged during those times.

Following the pavement rehabilitation, OCPW is planning to implement the next phase of safety improvements along Santiago Canyon Road in 2019, including applying a high-friction road surface treatment and installing flashing beacons, delineators, reflectors and buffer zone for cyclists at certain locations, all designed to enhance driver and cyclist awareness and safety.

Anticipated in 2024, OCPW has programmed a passing lanes project along Santiago Canyon Road to address trending vehicle accident types that may not be addressed or mitigated by the prior safety initiatives. This project proposes constructing passing lanes in four areas, retaining walls, metal beam guard rails, drainage improvements and storm water treatment measures along areas of Santiago Canyon Road. These improvements are being designed to minimize the potential for head-on vehicle collisions, improve traffic flow and enhance motor vehicle, pedestrian and cyclist safety.

With many of these initiatives still in the design or project development phase, OCPW will continue to communicate and coordinate with canyon area residents and others to obtain additional input prior to commencing these activities that do not fall under routine operations and maintenance.

For more information about the Santiago Canyon Road improvements project, visit www.ocroad.com/santiago_canyon_road

For more information about OCPW and other projects throughout the County, visit www.ocpublicworks.com

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