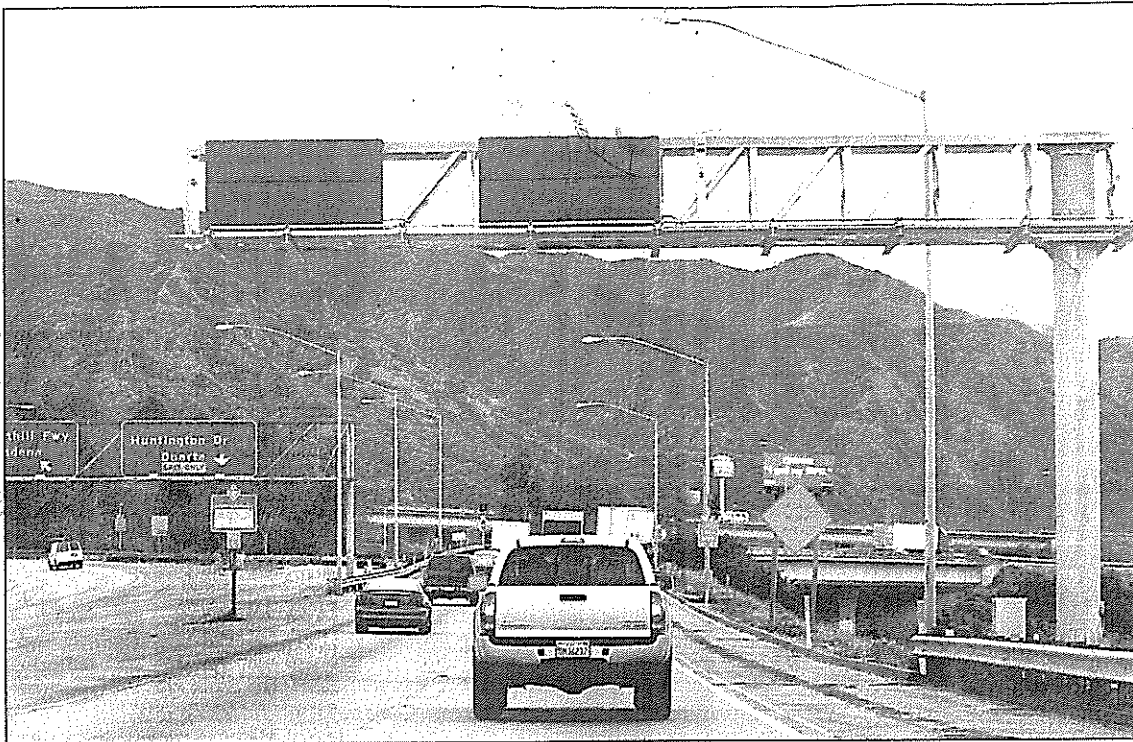


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METER READERS: A new metering system above the freeway on the connector roads to the 605 Freeway to the 210 Freeway is designed to reduce congestion. The new system is scheduled to be operational by Monday.

WALT MANCINI / STAFF

210 gets traffic meters

By Dan Abendschein
Staff Writer

Meters designed to ease congestion by stopping cars merging onto the 210 Freeway will go into operation in two weeks.

The meters are located on the transition roads from the northbound 57 Freeway to the eastbound and westbound 210 Freeway, and the 605 northbound freeway to the eastbound and westbound 210 Freeway.

The meters will stop cars at a brief red light during times of congestion, and will adjust the amount of waiting time based on how much congestion there is on the freeway, said Caltrans

spokeswoman Maria Raptis.

The lights will be turned on starting Monday but will only show a green light for the first two weeks, in an attempt to get drivers used to the system, Raptis said.

She added that Caltrans surveys had shown that the meters could slow traffic during peak congestion times by 15 percent to 20 percent.

The meters are part of a \$10.9 million project that will eventually lead to meters being installed on every freeway onramp and connector from the 5 Freeway to the San Bernardino County line.

Funding from the project comes from the governor's Stra-

tegic Growth Plan fund, which includes money from state transportation bonds and federal funding.

Currently, about 50 percent of the meter construction has been completed, according to Raptis.

In April, Caltrans plans to activate meters at the northbound 2 Freeway connectors to the 210 Freeway, at the eastbound 118 Freeway connectors to the 210 Freeway, and at the eastbound 134 connector to the westbound 210 Freeway.

This summer, the agency will begin to activate meters at the onramps as they are constructed and ready to go.

Duarte City Council member

and MTA board member John Fasana said the plan had been presented to the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments several months ago, and the only concern had been the possibility of traffic backup on the offramps.

"Some city staff members expressed the concern that on some of the shorter offramps, the line to get on the freeway could back onto city streets," said Fasana. "But we are all mindful of traffic congestion, so we all hoping this plan can reduce it."

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