

Our View: Freeways, roadways prepared for major facelifts

Posted: 12/07/2009 04:48:01 PM PST

WHENEVER the rain falls in Southern California, the first place residents notice the impact are on the roadways and freeways.

Monday's storm was no different, as the serious rain storm left as much as four inches of wet stuff on the ground and caused hundreds of traffic accidents. But while no one can stop the rain from falling and making roadways and freeways slick, we can make sure they are properly maintained and that future improvement projects are fully funded.

In the past, the San Gabriel Valley and Whittier area freeways didn't get adequate freeway and roadway funding. A disproportionate share of federal tax dollars often went to Eastern cities and monies that made it back to the Southland were funneled to the westside of L.A.

That trend, we are pleased to say, is changing. A long range transportation plan approved by the Metro (MTA) board actually provides substantial funding for our subregion's highways and roadways in the near future.

First, one of the worst interchanges in all of Southern California - the 605/10 in Baldwin Park - will be fixed. Well, partially. First up will be

"flyovers" for traffic on the southbound 605 and the northbound 605 approaching the 10. That will be a huge improvement over the switching of lanes currently required to join the 10 Freeway, something motorists call "the interchange of death." Caltrans is finishing plans for this improvement project and will soon start construction.

Already, construction has started to close the six-mile gap in the 10 Freeway carpool lane which runs the length of Baldwin Park, West Covina and part of Pomona. The carpool gap is testament to the shoddy treatment of the San Gabriel Valley in regional highway planning in the past. Closing that gap will add a lane of traffic, encourage carpooling, and symbolically says our region should no longer be placed last on the freeway and highway funding list.

Speaking of highways, the Alameda Corridor East projects also get a funding boost under the Metro plan and the voter approved Measure R half-cent sales tax increase.

Voters stuck in weather-related traffic snarls don't often think of the delays caused by trains crossing major Valley thoroughfares. Most often, people don't notice the delay of say, an emergency vehicle stopped at an at-grade train crossing unless a loved one's life is at stake.

We support rapid deployment of ACE funding for separating roads and train tracks so each can move uninterrupted. Thanks to the Metro, and to lobbying from the San Gabriel Valley Council of

Advertisement

TARGET WEB COUPON
EXPIRES 2/27/10

25¢ each

with purchase of twenty-five
4x6" Kodak instant prints







This coupon is intended for use by the original recipient only and is void if copied, scanned, transferred, purchased, sold or prohibited by law. Limit one offer per transaction. GiftCards and tax will not be included in determining purchase total. No cash value. Offer available at Target One Hour Photo Labs. Go to Target.com/photo for the location nearest you. One Hour service limited to machine capacity.

9856-0113-1882-4674-0306-4005-84

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™



Governments, ACE funds - about \$400 million over the next six years - will flow rapidly so projects can be built on schedule. This is a major victory for surface traffic movement in the San Gabriel Valley.

These successes are worth noting, even when rain-soaked freeways delay our commutes. They signal future improvements that will speed up travel times and also put more people to work.

Advertisement

TARGET WEB COUPON **EXPIRES 2/27/10**

25¢ each
with purchase of twenty-five
4x6" Kodak instant prints



This coupon is intended for use by the original recipient only and is void if copied, scanned, transferred, purchased, sold or prohibited by law. Limit one offer per transaction. GiftCards and tax will not be included in determining purchase total. No cash value. Offer available at Target One Hour Photo Labs. Go to Target.com/photo for the location nearest you. One Hour service limited to machine capacity.




9856-0113-1882-4674-0306-4005-84

Print Powered By  FormatDynamics™