



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Bernal Bridge Work Begins** *Major Traffic Impacts Anticipated*

PLEASANTON, *Calif.* — The City of Pleasanton would like to remind residents and commuters that the Bernal Bridge maintenance and repairs will begin on June 5, 2017 and will likely continue through August. Traffic will be reduced to a single lane and long delays are expected.

The City made the determination that the best time to perform this work would be during the summer after school lets out on June 2. “There is never a perfect time to close off traffic and with approximately 10,000 vehicle trips a day across the Bernal Bridge, the more motorists we can convince to take an alternate route the better,” said Steve Kirkpatrick, director of engineering for the City of Pleasanton.

The Bernal Bridge improvements will include sandblasting the bridge to remove corrosion and old paint, which will be followed by a fresh coat of paint. The project itself is relatively straightforward, but for the existing lead based paint that needs to be removed and the location over the Arroyo De Laguna, which drains almost the entire Tri Valley area south through Niles Canyon.

To ensure no lead or other waste enters the Arroyo, crews are going to “tent” the bridge structure during the project, which will necessitate a single lane of traffic and be controlled by a traffic signal.

In 2011, the council authorized funding to create the Bridge Maintenance Program (BMP), enabling the city to develop an overall best practices maintenance and repair program. There are 58 vehicle bridges throughout Pleasanton, not including the 30 interstate bridges under Caltrans' purview. Every two years, Caltrans inspects the majority of the bridges and provides recommendations, which are primarily preventative in nature.

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