



PRESS RELEASE

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BERNAL BRIDGE TO RECEIVE NEEDED MAINTENANCE

Part of City's Bridge Maintenance Program

PLEASANTON, *Calif.* — The City Council voted tonight in support of upgrades and maintenance for the Bernal Bridge, which crosses over the Arroyo de la Laguna, between Foothill Blvd. and I-680. The unanimous vote signals a green light for the project, the initial phase of which will begin sometime in February and likely last through August next year. The bulk of the work will occur during the summer months when peak hour traffic is at its lowest because Foothill High will be in recess.

“This program is a great benefit to our community because it enables us to partner with Caltrans to identify needed repairs that extend the lifespan of our bridges,” said Steve Kirkpatrick, director of engineering for the city of Pleasanton, adding “and most of the funding for this program comes from federal grant money, which is an added bonus.”

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.

The Bernal Bridge improvements will include sandblasting the bridge to remove any corrosion and old paint, followed by a fresh coat of paint. The project itself is a relatively straightforward one, but for the existing lead based paint that will 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 we are going to “tent” the bridge structure during the project, and this will necessarily create traffic impacts. We will do everything possible to minimize those impacts by scheduling that part of the repair during the summer months,” said Kirkpatrick.

The tented bridge will allow for a single lane of traffic, which will be controlled by a traffic signal. In order to alleviate the impacts, advance notice signs will be installed a month prior to the project’s commencement. Additional outreach will include press releases and postings on the city’s social media platforms.

“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 Kirkpatrick, adding that “when we started planning this project, we realized how crucial this old rustic bridge is for travel in Pleasanton, and we may want to consider constructing a second parallel bridge over the Arroyo De Laguna at some point in the future,” Kirkpatrick concluded.

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