



THE SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE SEISMIC SAFETY PROJECTS

CALTRANS

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

FINAL PREPARATIONS BEGIN FOR CLOSURE OF BAY BRIDGE

Construction Crews Conduct Test of Expansion Joints for Labor Day Weekend

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 14, 2009 – Construction crews are in the home stretch in preparation for the unprecedented and essential work planned for Labor Day weekend. The San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge is on schedule to close at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 3 and will reopen by 5 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

During the closure, crews will cut out a 300-foot-long, 3,200 ton double-deck section of the bridge 150-feet above Yerba Buena Island. That segment will be moved north, to make room for a 3,600-ton connector that will tie in the bridge to a detour just south of the existing span. The detour will route traffic around construction of the Transition Structure that will connect the new East Span to the Yerba Buena Island tunnel.

Construction crews are performing the fourth and final scheduled test of an expansion joint similar to the ones that will be placed on Labor Day weekend. During this test crews will first lift a 3-inch-thick steel plate onto a concrete block. Workers will then attach hoses to holes in the plate to pour an epoxy grout to seal the plate to the block, creating an expansion joint. This process will be used during Labor Day weekend to place 20 steel plates for a total of four expansion joints, one each for both ends of the two decks of the new section. While the plates vary in size, the largest is approximately 10 feet by 10 feet and weighs nine tons. This and other tests have been conducted to train crews in the operation and to help anticipate any issues that may arise before the actual operation is performed.

The Bay Bridge East Span replacement is scheduled for completion in 2013. It is part of the Toll Bridge Seismic Retrofit Program overseen by the Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee, which includes Caltrans, the Bay Area Toll Authority and the California Transportation Commission.

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