



NEWS RELEASE

Date: November 12, 2009

District: 4 - Oakland

Contact: Lauren Wonder

Phone: (510) 286-6120

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BAY BRIDGE LANES TO BE CLOSED FOR SPEED LIMIT ENFORCEMENT

Oakland – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), in coordination with the California Highway Patrol (CHP), is closing one to two lanes of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge's upper and lower decks during off-peak hours to provide CHP officers the opportunity to enforce speed limits on the bridge. The lanes will only be closed during off-peak hours to avoid causing or increasing traffic congestion.

The lane closure on the westbound deck will start past the toll plaza and will extend through the Yerba Buena Island tunnel. The eastbound lane closure will start at the center anchorage of the West Span and will end just past the Yerba Buena Island detour.

The off-peak hours are as follows:

Weekdays

Westbound: 12 p.m. – 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. – 5 a.m.

Eastbound: 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 11 p.m. – 6 a.m.

Weekends

Westbound: 11 p.m. (Fri) – 7 a.m. (Sat) and 11 p.m. (Sat) – 9 a.m. (Sun)

Eastbound: 11 p.m. (Fri) – 8 a.m. (Sat) and 11 p.m. (Sat) – 9 a.m. (Sun)

The ongoing closure of one lane on both the upper and lower decks is part of a larger ongoing effort to maximize safety, raise awareness, and reduce speed on the S-curve. Other safety measures include installing additional 35 MPH signs, reflective striping on the barrier rails and radar signs that tell motorists how fast they are driving.

The S-curve is a temporary detour on the Bay Bridge put in place during Labor Day weekend 2009 to reroute traffic around construction of the new East Span near Yerba Buena Island. The speed limit on the Bay Bridge is 50 MPH, but that is reduced to 40 MPH on the S-curve; drivers of large trucks are urged to drive 35 MPH on the S-curve.

At this time, it has not been determined for how long the lane closures will occur.

###

