

# The Toll Roads VIEWSLETTER

A Publication of the Transportation Corridor Agencies

APRIL 2018

## ARTISTS PAINT UPPER CHIQUITA CANYON CONSERVATION AREA

On April 20, 2018, the Transportation Corridor Agencies (TCA) hosted artists from the Southern California Plein Air Painters Association who spent the spring morning painting the landscape of the Upper Chiquita Canyon Conservation Area.

In French, “plein air” means “open air” or “outside.” Plein air painting (or “painting outside”) dates back centuries and was made famous by Claude Monet and other French Impressionists.

A pristine outdoor setting that is rarely open to the public, TCA’s picturesque Upper Chiquita Canyon is a painter’s delight located in the inland foothills of Orange County, California.



TCA protected the habitat in association with building the 241 Toll Road to support important populations of coastal California gnatcatchers and coastal cactus wrens. Limited access is available to the public to ensure the habitat stays healthy and provides valuable connectivity for wildlife movement.

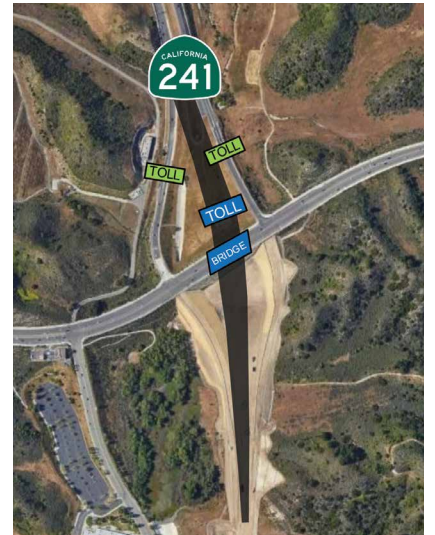
For more than 25 years, TCA has been committed to balancing construction and operations of The Toll Roads with the preservation of area open spaces and wildlife habitat. The Agencies’ open spaces are like a time machine to bygone days, even before ranchers, farmers and cattle populated Orange County.

## OSO PARKWAY BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION TO BEGIN IN JUNE

TCA and the County of Orange are building an overcrossing bridge structure for a portion of Oso Parkway (at the southern end of the 241 Toll Road) to allow traffic from Los Patrones Parkway to travel under Oso Parkway and connect to the 241 Toll Road. Direct access to the 241 Toll Road will improve traffic flow, enhance safety and support mobility for the region.

The County of Orange was responsible for advertising, awarding and administering the project’s construction contract. Construction has been awarded to Ortiz Enterprises and staff augmentation, construction management and inspection services have been awarded to Jacobs Project Management. The contracts are valued at \$17.8 million and \$1.6 million, respectively.

Los Patrones Parkway is under construction by Rancho Mission Viejo and the first phase is estimated to be complete by summer 2018. The Oso Bridge Project and construction of the gap between Los Patrones Parkway and the 241 Toll Road is a two-year project and is expected to be complete in the summer of 2020.



## NEW IDEA ANNOUNCED TO ADDRESS SOUTH COUNTY MOBILITY

Due to overwhelming public feedback, planners and engineers have developed a new idea for consideration that provides regional traffic relief to South Orange County while responding to concerns expressed by the local community.

The new idea extends Los Patrones Parkway from Cow Camp Road to Avenida La Pata, east of San Juan Capistrano with two lanes in each direction and adds managed lanes on Interstate 5 from State Route 73 to south of the San Diego County line.

The new idea will be added to the seven ideas that are planned for analysis in the Project Study Report (PSR), expected to be completed in summer 2018. The PSR is the first step toward initiating the formal environmental process. The formal environmental process, that will conclude with a preferred alternative, is projected to be complete in 2021.



# THE TOLL ROADS' TRANSACTIONS AND REVENUE REACH HISTORIC HIGH

Transactions and revenue for the 73, 133, 241 and 261 Toll Roads are at an all-time historic high, with three consecutive years of strong transactional and revenue growth.

“Drivers see the value of time savings by using The Toll Roads and traveling through mainline toll points is where they can experience the highest level of time savings over congested toll-free routes,” said Steve Abendchein, senior principal at Stantec and TCA's traffic and revenue consultant, in a presentation to TCA's Boards of Directors in April. Very strong peak period transactional growth at mainline toll points is a great sign of really building the commuter base, which is the foundation of The Toll Roads' transactions and revenue.”

While The Toll Roads serve as alternative routes to heavily congested freeways, more drivers are also choosing to drive The Toll Roads outside of morning and evening commute periods.

“Both Agencies have seen a tremendous amount of off-peak growth; these discretionary trips are where drivers are experiencing the benefits of time savings of traveling on The Toll Roads as compared to toll-free alternatives,” said Abendchein.



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