

NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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For more information, contact
Scott Vanhorne, Communications Director
(909) 387-4833

Redevelopment Funds Keep Cherry/I-10 Interchange on Pace

SAN BERNARDINO – A shortfall that threatened to derail a \$76-million freeway interchange project by putting more than \$30 million in state transportation funding at risk was overcome Tuesday when the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors agreed to use \$9.5 million in redevelopment funds to keep the project on track.

“A new interchange at Cherry/I-10 is critical to the future of the industrial, logistics, and sports entertainment industries based in the Speedway Redevelopment Area and to the future of the entire I-10 corridor and the economic benefits it brings to our County,” said San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Paul Biane, who has championed the need for the modernized interchange and other I-10 improvements from Sacramento to Washington, D.C. “County redevelopment funding keeps the project moving forward, but we’ve got a lot of work ahead of us to ensure that we can deliver this interchange project on time.”

The County estimates it will cost about \$9.5 million to purchase land (a.k.a. right of way) needed to complete the interchange project, which includes expanding the bridge over I-10 from five to eight lanes, adding an additional lane at each ramp, and improvements to the Cherry Avenue/Valley Boulevard intersection. However, the County Department of Public Works does not have funds available to pay for the right of way, and the State has required the County to complete right of way acquisition by April 2011. The County stands to lose \$30.7 million in Trade Corridor Improvement Funds allocated by the State if the right-of-way deadline is not met. Construction of the interchange improvements will begin in April 2010 and the project will be completed in the fall of 2013.

Supervisor Biane, who represents the western portion of Fontana where the Cherry/I-10 interchange is located, directed Public Works to work with the Speedway Redevelopment Agency to ensure the project was not delayed because of the right of way funding issue.

The redevelopment agency, which has already contributed \$3.9 million for the design and engineering of the interchange, agreed to loan Public Works \$9.5 million to initiate right of way acquisition, which is expected to take about a year to complete. The agency will be reimbursed about \$3.9 from state funds. In addition, the City of Fontana and San Bernardino Associated Governments – the County transportation planning agency – are expected to approve a cooperative agreement to reimburse the agency \$1.9 million and \$3.6 million, respectively.

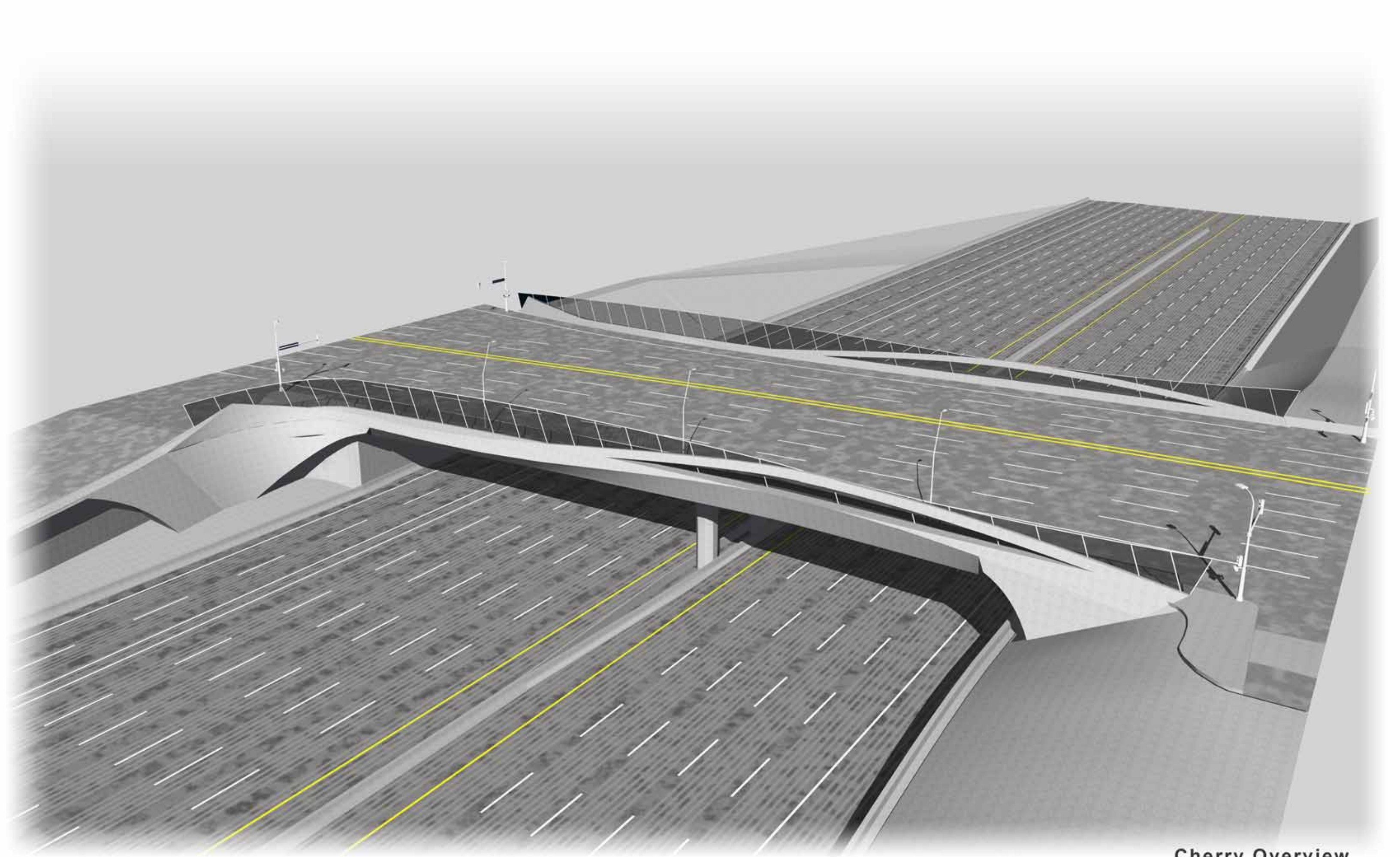
"I am confident the cooperative agreement will be approved and that the Speedway Redevelopment Agency will be reimbursed for the loan, but I cannot put a major transportation project and \$30 million in State funding at risk by waiting for the ink to dry on that agreement," Biane said.

In addition to relieving traffic congestion on Cherry Avenue and Interstate 10, the new interchange and other interchange improvements along I-10 are necessary to build carpool lanes on the freeway from Ontario to Redlands. The Caltrans carpool lane project is expected to cost more than \$1 billion.

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Cherry South-Bound
Cherry Avenue I-10 OC
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Cherry Overview
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