

For immediate release: February 7, 2016

Contact: Mary Nemick, Director of Communications, Bureau of Engineering - 213-485-5085 and mary.nemick@lacity.org



“101SlowJam” Ends Ahead of Schedule; 101 Freeway Opens at 10 a.m. City Removes First Section of Sixth Street Viaduct; Demolition Will Continue for Nine Months

LOS ANGELES (February 7, 2016) – Sunday morning, the City of Los Angeles’ Bureau of Engineering announced that the 101 Freeway re-opened at 10 a.m., four hours ahead of schedule. The freeway, which was closed at 10 p.m. on Friday night, allowed workers to demolish the first section of the Sixth Street Viaduct.

The freeway closure was originally scheduled to last 40 hours and end at 2 p.m. Sunday. Due to the speed of the demolition, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) was able to re-open the freeway at 10 a.m.

"Los Angeles gets things done. And the '101 Slow Jam,' which is ending hours ahead of schedule, is a testament to what can be accomplished when we get into the groove, pull together, and plan ahead," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "I am grateful to our crews for all of their hard work this weekend, and to the tens of thousands of Angelenos who helped make the freeway closure go even more smoothly than we expected. That was one fast Slow Jam."

The closure, dubbed the “101SlowJam”, shut down a 2.5 mile section of the 101 Freeway from the 10/101 split to the 5/10/101 interchange on the east side of downtown Los Angeles.

“We were able to complete the work considerably ahead of schedule and we did it in the safest way possible for our workers and for those in the project area,” said Gary Lee Moore, City Engineer.

Traffic throughout the closure was as expected for a weekend in downtown Los Angeles, said Carrie Bowen, Director of Caltrans District 7.

“Our detour plans worked well and the alternate routes were able to handle the additional traffic,” Bowen said. “We saw periodic delays of 10-20 minutes in some areas on Saturday afternoon. However by evening, most traffic was flowing at close to normal levels.”

Caltrans was able to do maintenance work on the closed stretch of the freeway during the closure including weed removal, restriping, drain clearing and surface repairs.

Workers demolished the viaduct using “breaker hammers” to break the concrete apart. The steel rebar will be recycled. After demolition of the bridge deck and the three supporting

columns, the debris was removed, along with the two feet of dirt that was laid down to protect the surface of the freeway.

“We are extremely grateful to the community for their patience throughout the weekend,” added City Engineer Moore. “We know that a closure of this size and a major construction project is difficult for everyone in the area.”

Efforts to alert the public to the upcoming closure included a #101SlowJam video by Mayor Eric Garcetti, backed up by local Roosevelt High School Jazz Band. The video, released by the Mayor’s Office on Thursday night, had nearly 2 million views on social media in its first 27 hours.

Demolition will continue for nine months. The new viaduct will be completed late 2019.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Mary Nemick, Director of Communications, Bureau of Engineering: 213-485-5085 or Mary.Nemick@lacity.org

###