



## Eastbound SR-91/Atlantic Av to Cherry Av Auxiliary Lane Improvements

### **Overview**

The Eastbound SR-91/Atlantic Av to Cherry Av Auxiliary Lane Improvements Project will improve one of North Long Beach’s most hazardous freeway segments near the connection from Southbound I-710 to Eastbound SR-91. The project is designed to reduce crashes, ease congestion and improve conditions for both drivers and the surrounding neighborhoods.

Metro and Caltrans are delivering this \$174 million investment in the community. The project is anticipated to begin in early 2026, with completion expected in 2029.

### **About This Project**

The Eastbound SR-91/Atlantic Av to Cherry Av Auxiliary Lane Improvements Project is not adding a new freeway lane for long-distance travel.

The key change is a new auxiliary lane, a short connecting lane that helps vehicles enter, exit, or merge safely. This auxiliary lane will run eastbound between Atlantic Av and Cherry Av, paired with an extended Atlantic Av on-ramp. The new improvements will give drivers more space and time to merge, reducing the sudden breaking, last-second lane changes, and weaving that make this corridor dangerous today. These enhancements will also help eliminate spillovers to the local streets and reduce potential collisions from drivers entering and exiting the freeway.

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**A simple way to picture it:** Right now, if you enter the freeway from the Atlantic on-ramp, you have to merge into fast-moving traffic almost immediately, which can be especially challenging when traffic is heavy, and other drivers are also trying to reach nearby exits. After construction, drivers entering from Atlantic will have a dedicated lane for a longer stretch, making it easier and safer to merge. The project will also add new rubberized asphalt pavement on the Atlantic on-ramp and Cherry off-ramp, which will also help reduce traffic noise for nearby residents.

In addition to improving safety on the freeway and local streets, the project addresses beautification. This includes a 2-for-1 tree replacement commitment; for every tree removed during construction, two new trees will be planted.

### **What Residents Near the Freeway Should Know About Soundwalls**

For neighbors living alongside SR-91, the soundwall work is likely the most visible and most personal part of this project.

The existing soundwalls between Atlantic Av and Cherry Av will be removed and replaced with new soundwalls approximately two feet taller. The eastbound Atlantic Av off-ramp wall will also be reconstructed as part of the project. Metro understands that these soundwalls matter. They reduce freeway noise today, and their temporary absence during construction will result in an increase in noise for nearby homes. That is real, and it is acknowledged.

To limit that impact, soundwall removal and reconstruction will happen in phases so that only a portion of the wall is down at any one time. When the new walls are complete, they will be taller and built with better materials than those that exist today, providing greater noise reduction.

### **Noise and Vibration Monitoring**

Metro requires comprehensive noise and vibration monitoring prior to construction to establish baseline conditions during construction, and for a period after construction. Baseline readings establish existing conditions so any changes during construction can be detected and addressed.

During construction, monitoring is continuous, and established thresholds will be enforced throughout the work. Metro and the construction team receive real-time alerts through a web-based application when readings approach or exceed thresholds. If a threshold is exceeded, work stops immediately. The contractor must implement corrective action before work resumes, and Metro verifies the result.

A total of 27 vibration monitors will be installed before construction begins.

**Have a concern?** Residents can call the project's dedicated line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Concerns are documented and answered.

Call: 213.922.4091

Email: [eb91@metro.net](mailto:eb91@metro.net)

### **Air Filtration Program**

Funding has been provided for air filtration units at no cost to eligible homes and businesses near the freeway. Metro expanded program the radius from construction to include additional homes and businesses.

Scan the QR code



to learn more and sign up for construction updates.