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NEWS RELEASE

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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON TERMINAL ISLAND INTERCHANGE **Two-year Project to Ease Ocean Boulevard Traffic**

Jan. 24, 2005

The Port of Long Beach began construction Monday, Jan. 24, on a two-year roadway and interchange project that will improve traffic flow along Ocean Boulevard on Terminal Island.

In December, the City of Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners gave the go ahead to Irvine-based Ortiz Enterprises Inc. to begin major construction on the \$34 million project, with completion scheduled for February 2007.

When completed, motorists using Ocean Boulevard will be able to travel non-stop east and west on a new, elevated roadway over the intersections with the Terminal Island Freeway and Henry Ford Avenue. Currently, traffic signals at these intersections often cause backups.

New on- and off-ramps will provide access to and from Ocean Boulevard and the Terminal Island Freeway and Henry Ford Avenue. A future project by the Port of Los Angeles will remove a final traffic signal at the intersection of Ocean Boulevard and Navy Way, which will make Ocean Boulevard a freeway-like throughway between the Gerald Desmond and Vincent Thomas bridges.

The Port has been preparing the construction route for the past 18 months. The first six to eight months of construction by Ortiz will see the construction of a detour road parallel to and north of Ocean Boulevard. The detour road, which will maintain the same capacity as the current Ocean Boulevard route, will allow construction on the main route to proceed with minimal impacts on daily traffic.

The Port has designed extensive traffic control and management measures into the project and most work requiring lane closures will be done between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. A few weekend closures will be required during the construction, but detours and alternate routes will be widely publicized in advance. Despite these plans, occasional delays may be expected during construction.

The Port has set up an information number at (866) OVERPAS for anyone with questions

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