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FEBRUARY 24, 2021



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### **VCTC Launching Program to Provide Emergency Roadside Assistance to Drivers**

CAMARILLO, Calif. – Drivers hindered by disabled vehicles soon can receive emergency roadside assistance at no charge on some segments of Ventura County highways during peak traffic periods.

The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) will launch the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program on Monday, March 1.

The FSP program will provide a fleet of roving service and tow trucks on three segments of Ventura County highways during peak traffic periods to quickly clear disabled vehicles and assist motorists.

The three segments, referred to as “beats,” are:

- Beat 1: US-101 from the Ventura County/Los Angeles County line to Camarillo Springs Road;
- Beat 2: US-101 from Camarillo Springs Road to Central Avenue;
- Beat 3: CA-118 from Ventura/Los Angeles County line to State Route 23 (Rocky Peak).

Service on Beat 1 on US-101 will begin March 1. Service on Beat 2 on US-101 and Beat 3 on CA-118 will begin later in March and in April.

“The Freeway Service Patrol program will help keep drivers safe and will help keep traffic moving on the 101,” said VCTC Chairwoman Kelly Long.

The contractor will operate two roaming tow trucks on each of the beats from 6-9 a.m. and from 3-7 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Platinum Tow & Transport Inc. of Camarillo is the tow truck contractor for the program.

Services include changing a flat tire, providing a gallon of fuel, and taping leaky hoses. If the FSP driver cannot get a vehicle running quickly, the vehicle can be towed to a safe location off the freeway at no charge, where the motorist can wait for additional assistance.

“The Freeway Service Patrol program will provide critical assistance to drivers in need along the 118,” said Commission member Bob Huber.

While an FSP program has existed in Los Angeles County and other counties for several years, the program is new to Ventura County. In December 2019, VCTC approved a resolution to provide 25% of matching funds for the program.

“The Freeway Service Patrol program is all about driver safety, but it will also ease congestion and help improve air pollution,” said Commissioner Claudia Bill-de la Peña, who represents the City of Thousand Oaks.

FSP is a joint program of the California Department of Transportation, the California Highway Patrol and Ventura County Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE). The local SAFE contracts with tow contractors to provide the FSP service. CHP provides daily oversight and direction to the contractor and their drivers. Caltrans provides 75% of program funding. Local matching funds come from a \$1 annual fee on vehicles registered in Ventura County.

For more information on the Freeway Service Patrol, visit [goventura.org/fsp](http://goventura.org/fsp)

### **About the Ventura County Transportation Commission**

The Ventura County Transportation Commission is the regional transportation planning agency committed to keeping Ventura County moving. Program information is available at [goventura.org](http://goventura.org).

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