

California



2004

County of Santa Clara, Roads and Airports Department, Central Expressway, Santa Clara

Central Expressway was part of Santa Clara County's 1961 bond program, which provided local tax funding for the construction of an expressway system. The award-winning section of the road is the 5.7-mile westernmost end, an urban, four-lane, divided highway with access control and some at-grade intersections controlled with traffic lights. This section passes through the cities of Mountain View and Sunnyvale.

The road was constructed in the late '60s and opened to traffic in 1969. The original construction consisted of 8 inches of aggregate subbase, 8 inches of cement-treated base, and 4 inches of HMA, placed in two lifts. The top lift was the Caltrans standard mix design for 0.5-inch maximum rock size. The county placed a 1.5-inch overlay of HMA on the highway in 1986 and sealed it with black aggregate microsurfacing in 2003.

The pavement has survived despite flooding in the median caused by a high water table and disaster-level rains on at least two occasions. It has also retained its integrity despite heavy increases in traffic. The road was opened in 1969, with an average daily traffic (ADT) of 12,000 vehicles. Today it handles four times that amount, with an ADT close to 50,000 vehicles.