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Description

California highway authorities plan to temporarily shut down a stretch of a major freeway for much-needed repair work, leaving many motorists in Los Angeles bracing for days of gridlock.

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CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE

Transcript
Los Angeles Braces for “Carmageddon”
LESTER HOLT, anchor:
You're likely to hear the word "Carmageddon" a lot this coming week. Carmageddon, as in a worst-case scenario for cars and their drivers. It's all because highway authorities in California plan to shut down a stretch of a major freeway, I-405, that connects the southern part of Los Angeles with the San Fernando Valley. Residents are being told stay home or get out of town. NBC's George Lewis has more tonight.
GEORGE LEWIS reporting:
It's one of the most famous freeways in the world.
TOM BROKAW reporting: The Bronco that you see on the freeway contains O.J. Simpson.
LEWIS: It was the route O.J. used to get home during the Bronco chase.
But starting next weekend, nobody's going to be getting anywhere on this part of the 405.
Unidentified Woman #1: It's just a nuisance.
Unidentified Man #1: I'm staying home. There's no reason for me to be out.
Unidentified Man #2: I'll be in New York.
LEWIS: The section of freeway that'll be closed runs from Highway-101 in the San Fernando Valley to Interstate-10 in West Los Angeles. It's a big deal because valley residents traveling into or out of LA International Airport will have to find alternate routes. And if the worst-case predictions of officials come true, all of the surrounding streets and freeways will be gridlocked. Carmageddon.
So why do they have to do this? The closure is necessary, they say, because the freeway is being widened. And this bridge, the Mulholland Avenue overcrossing, will have to be demolished to make room for the extra lanes.
Mr. DAVE SOTERO (Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority): It's really an effort to complete the gaps in the carpooling network that will entire--enable the entire region to move more quickly through the corridor.
LEWIS: The highway people have enlisted celebrities to warn motorists about the closure via Twitter. Ashton Kutcher tweeted about it and added, "In exchange, I would like a free pass on that stoplight
ticket."
(Clip from "CHiPs")
LEWIS: Eric Estrada, formerly of "CHiPs," recorded a public service announcement.
(Clip from public service announcement)
LEWIS: Then there are those who are trying to capitalize on the situation.
Unidentified Man #3: We're all hoping for the best.
LEWIS: For $150 a person, this helicopter service will fly passengers over the area affected by the shutdown, skirting the gridlock. After it's over, LA will have to endure Carmageddon 2 in 11 months for the second half of the bridge remodel.
Unidentified Woman #2: Oh, wow. That's terrible.
LEWIS: It's one sequel Hollywood is not eagerly awaiting. George Lewis, NBC News, Los Angeles.