

MID-COAST CORRIDOR TRANSIT PROJECT

FACT SHEET



The Project

This project extends light rail transit (LRT) service from the Old Town Transit Center to the University City community serving major activity centers such as the University of California, San Diego (UCSD), University Towne Centre (UTC), Old Town, and downtown San Diego.

The 11-mile extension to the existing San Diego Trolley system starts just north of the Old Town Transit Center and travels parallel to Interstate 5 (I-5) north to Gilman Drive. Three stations are proposed in this section at Tecolote Road, Clairemont Drive, and Balboa Avenue. The extension will run north along I-5 to UCSD and continue to its terminus at UTC in the University City area. There are five stations proposed in this segment at University Center Lane, UCSD West, UCSD East, Executive Drive, and the UTC Transit Center.

The Need

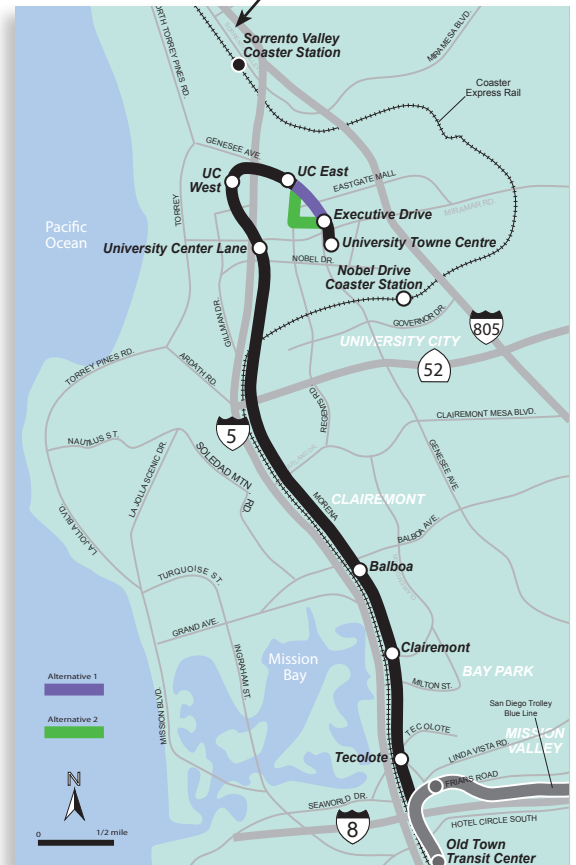
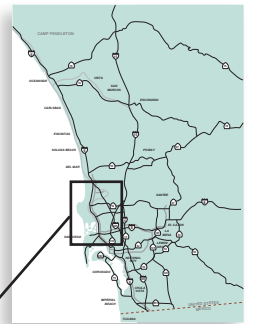
The Mid-Coast Project would improve public transit services and connect corridor residents with other Trolley lines serving Old Town, Centre City San Diego, Mission Valley, South County communities to the International Border, and East County communities to Santee, thereby enhancing direct public access to other regional activity centers.

The project would improve mobility options to employment, education, medical, and retail centers for corridor residents, commuters, and visitors.

Projected travel growth in the corridor will increase congestion and delays on already over-taxed transportation facilities. Viable new transit services would help meet travel demand in the corridor and provide an attractive alternative.

The University City area in the Mid-Coast Corridor has developed as a major employment and high density residential area, similar to downtown San Diego.

(Continued on reverse)



401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 699-1900
Fax (619) 699-1905
www.sandag.org

Population in the entire corridor has grown by 21 percent over the last ten years and is forecast to increase another 20 percent by the year 2030. Employment in the entire corridor has grown by 37 percent over the last ten years and is forecast to increase another 14 percent by the year 2030.

Even with major widening and redesign, all freeways in the corridor are forecast to be congested by the year 2030. The most severe congestion will occur on the north-south links.

Project Costs

The cost of the LRT project including planning and preliminary engineering work is \$1.2 billion (2006 dollars). Railroad right-of-way acquired to date is \$20 million.

Project Status

The supplemental environmental and preliminary engineering phase has started on the updated LRT alignment. The Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project has been identified as a high-priority project by SANDAG and is part of the *TransNet* Early Action Program.

Planning studies completed previously in the University City area resulted in an alignment with two variations, which will be carried into the preliminary engineering and supplemental environmental phase.

Funding Status

To date, the San Diego region has invested a total of \$31.5 million on the Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project for planning, preliminary engineering, and right-of-way acquisition. *TransNet* will provide a 50 percent local match to the federal funding.

Summary

SANDAG considers this Mid-Coast Corridor Transit Project the highest priority transit project in the region. It will improve access to growing employment, education, and residential areas. LRT works particularly well in this corridor because:

- » It connects with the existing high-capacity transit system at Old Town;
- » It offers one-seat commuting from downtown San Diego to the University City area and major activity centers such as UCSD, UTC, Old Town, and downtown San Diego; and,
- » LRT accommodates special events very well for both downtown San Diego and Mission Valley.