

I-5 North Coast Corridor

E-Newsletter #3

I-5 North Coast Corridor's Unique Amenities Create 24/7 Traffic Demand

The beauty of the I-5 North Coast Corridor's (NCC) natural environment generates travel to its:

- ▶ World-renowned public beaches
- ▶ Coastal bluffs
- ▶ Six lagoons
- ▶ Flower Fields

These amenities along with other activity centers such as Legoland and the Del Mar Fairgrounds are part of what creates travel demand 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in your corridor. The I-5 NCC has elements that are: historically, culturally, aesthetically and economically important to the region and its visitors.

Unlike other corridors that experience peak congestion during the weekday AM and PM commuting hours, the I-5 NCC's traffic demand from jobs, tourism and regional retail results in consistent traffic demand seven days a week. See Figure 1. Weekend trips are primarily recreational, unlike weekday commuter trips and generally result in more High-Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) on I-5.

This corridor's weekend trips have been observed to be as high as 60 percent HOV usage. Additional HOV lane capacity proposed in the I-5 NCC HOV/Managed Lanes project would serve this growing weekend travel demand.

Page two outlines the region's proposed project design features and Community Enhancement Plan to preserve and protect your corridor's environmental resources, while improving mobility.



Oceanside City Beach



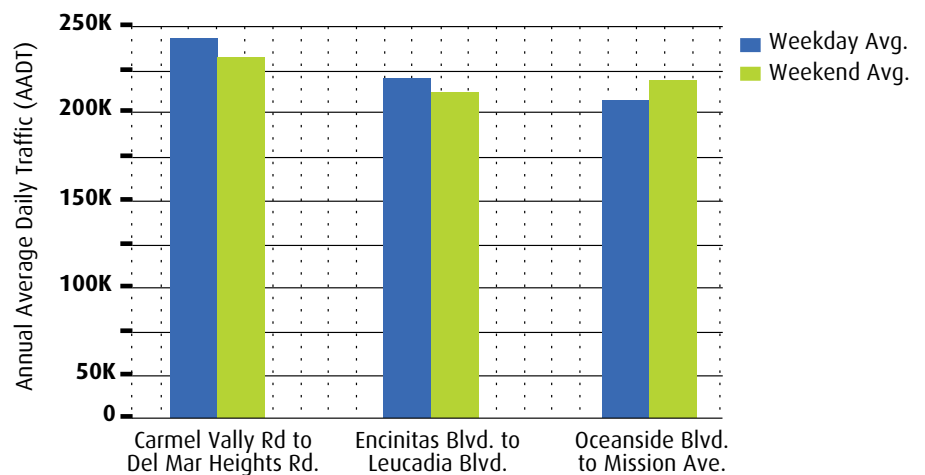
Carlsbad Flower Fields



Photo courtesy of David Cooksey

Highway 101 at Torrey Pines State Beach

Figure 1: Average Daily Traffic (I-5 NCC, 2006)



Source: Caltrans, District 11



The corridor's lagoons support valuable and sensitive habitat.

Improving Mobility While Enhancing the Lagoons

The I-5 traverses six protected lagoons. Communities identify strongly with these lagoons which provide recreational space, beauty, and buffer areas that define entry and exit points for each community. The I-5 NCC HOV/Managed Lanes project incorporates the lagoon system into its design features and enhancements. It proposes to:

- ▶ Incorporate bioswales along the perimeter of I-5 to reduce sediment and pollutant runoff into the lagoons
- ▶ Revegetate disturbed areas with native plants to enhance sustainability
- ▶ Protect view corridors to the natural environment to maintain the aesthetic character of communities
- ▶ Build a nature center at the La Costa Park & Ride

The I-5 NCC's Coastal Communities to Be Enhanced

In 2005 and 2006, Caltrans met with city officials and community stakeholders in the I-5 NCC with the goal of developing a transportation facility that preserves scenic, aesthetic, visual and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility.

This coordination resulted in 24 proposed enhancement projects which fall into the following categories:

- ▶ Streetscape enhancements
- ▶ Underpass trail connections
- ▶ Suspension bridges under I-5
- ▶ Park & Ride enhancements
- ▶ Overpass enhancements and relocations
- ▶ Park enhancements and additions
- ▶ Regional gateway feature

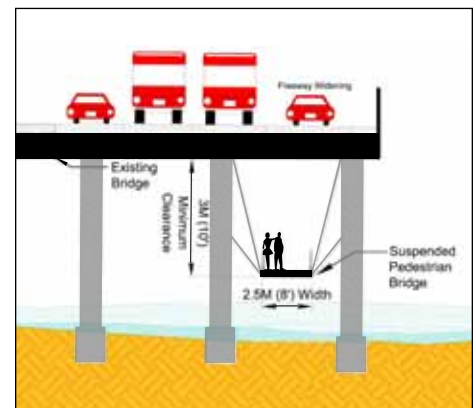
Details about each proposed improvement will be provided in the I-5 NCC HOV/Managed Lanes' Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Study,

which is planned to be released in Spring/Summer 2010.

Caltrans looks forward to this opportunity to continue working with the I-5 NCC's communities to implement the proposed enhancement projects. Each of these projects are dependent on creating formal agreements with each city and Caltrans.



Plan view: Proposed trailhead at Solana Hills Drive in Solana Beach.



Proposed section/elevation: Pedestrian bridge under I-5 at the Batiquitos Lagoon in Carlsbad.

Next Issue...

The next newsletter will focus on managed lanes and how they will serve future travel demand of this unique corridor.

For more information, log-on to:
<http://www.keepsandiegomoving.com>

For questions, call: Caltrans Public Affairs: 619-688-6670

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